

\$5

A-League Round 21 Friday 15h Feb - Sunday 17th Feb 2013

Still
Going
Strong
Since
2005



Now Available
at the
A-League

Follow us on:

facebook
twitter

goal!

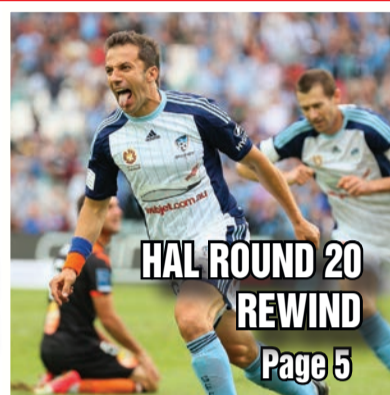
weekly



E: news@goalweekly.com T: (03) 9551 7538 www.goalweekly.com M: PO Box 142 Port Melbourne VIC 3207



**ARCHIE THOMPSON
SOUVENIR POSTER**
Page 14&15



**HAL ROUND 20
REWIND**
Page 5



**Presenting BFTP:
SOCCER ACTION**
Page 20



V-LEAGUE WRAP
Page 21



NYL REVIEW
Page 22

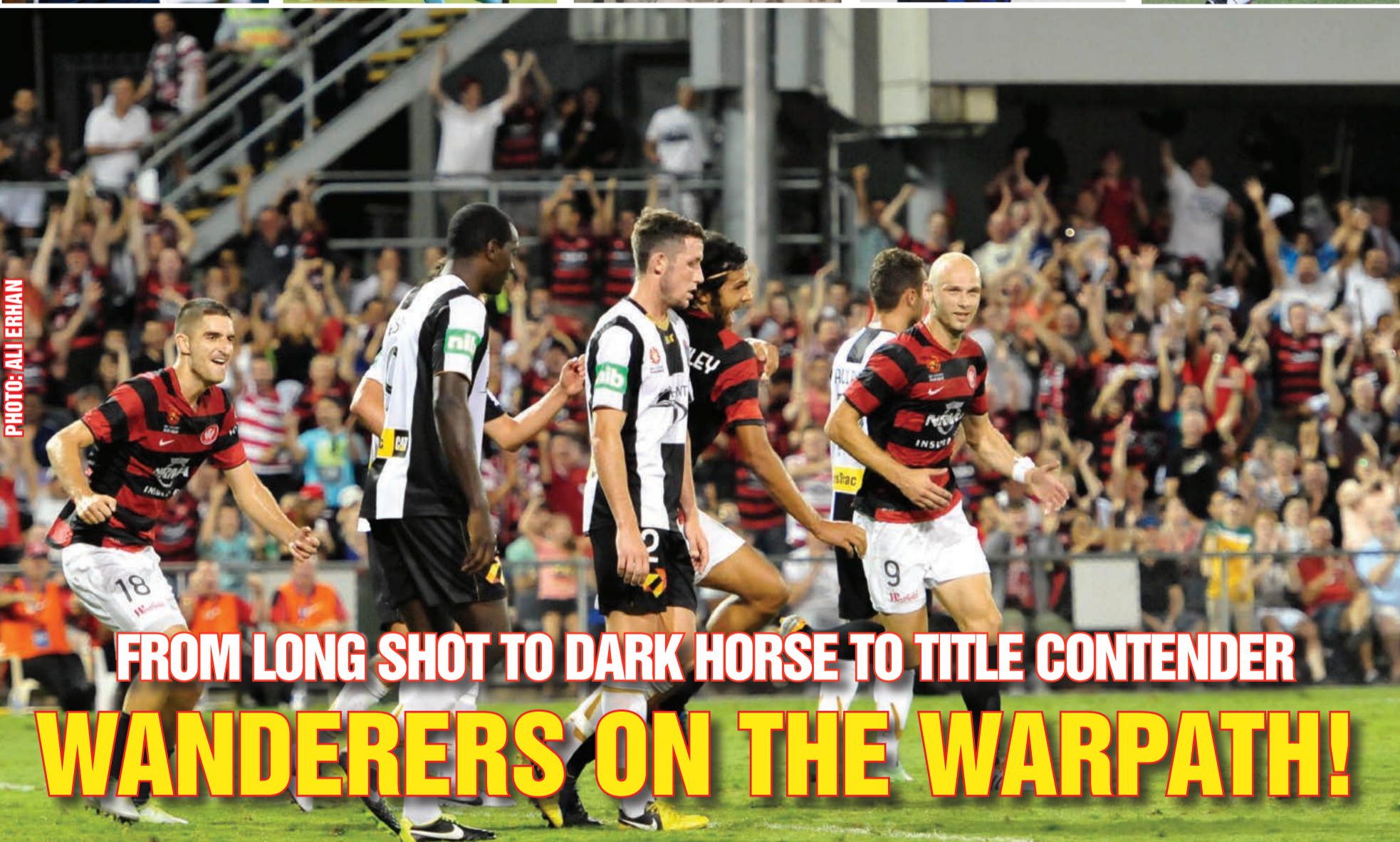


PHOTO: ALI ERHAN

**FROM LONG SHOT TO DARK HORSE TO TITLE CONTENDER
WANDERERS ON THE WARPATH!**



IT'S TIME TO
FACE OFF



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2013
KICK-OFF 7.45PM. AAMI PARK
TICKETEK.COM.AU OR CALL 132 849

Brisbane Roar fall short in ACL play-off

ACL Play Off
Buriram Utd (Thai) 0
Brisbane Roar 0
Buriram wins 3-0 on pens.

By Daniel Lato

Brisbane Roar has fallen just short of qualifying for the 2013 AFC Champions League after losing to Thai Premier League team Buriram United on penalties in tonight's play-off qualifier. After the scores were locked 0-0 at 90 minutes, and then 120 minutes, Buriram scored three times in the shootout while the Roar had their trio of efforts saved by opposition goalkeeper Siwarak Tedsungnoen. Brisbane goalkeeper Michael Theo was his team's player of the match, keeping his side in the contest with a string of important saves. The home side had the majority of the chances on the night and could've scored within the first ten minutes of the match - Anawin Jujeen latched into a quickly-fired long ball inside the area and forced a reactive save from Theo at his near post with defender Shane Stefanutto well-placed to clear the ball to safety. A clash between Theo and teammate Ivan Franjic dealt Brisbane a massive defensive blow soon after and while the right-back contin-



ued for almost another half an hour, he eventually succumbed to the earlier knock and was replaced by Jack Hingert in the 37th minute. The home team heaped pressure on the Brisbane defence late in the first half, their best chances coming from a flurry of corners, most notably Charyl Chappuis who flashed his shot marginally wide of the goal after he was set up on the edge of the area. Brisbane had the first dangerous chance after the break when captain Thomas

Broich weaved his way into the penalty box between two defenders and drew Siwarak out of his goal. The rebounded ball fell to Mitch Nichols on the left wing but the Brisbane midfielder wasn't able to find the target with his first time shot just outside the box. The second half was more action-packed than the first, Theo then pulling off a strong save to deny Suree Sukha before Brisbane's Besart Berisha and Stef Nijland each went close at the other end.

Inside the last 10 minutes of regular time, Berisha almost found himself with a great chance to put his side in front after Halloran and Broich combined to set him up but the assistant referee's flag was up for offside. With no goals in 90 minutes, the match headed for extra time where Theo was particularly busy in the Roar goal. However, Buriram only had themselves to blame in the 103rd minute when substitute Nutnam Suchao wasted a golden opportunity in front

Buriram United 0
Brisbane Roar 0
Buriram United Win 3-0 On Penalties
Afc Champions League Play-Off Qualifier
Wednesday, 13 February 2013
Buriram Stadium, Buriram
Referee: Kim Dong Jin (Korea Republic)

Buriram United: 1.Siwarek Tedsungnoen (Gk), 2. Bunmathan Theerathon, 3. Pratham Chutong, 4. Charyl Chappius, 5. Osmar Barba Ibanez, 11. Ekkachai Samre (8. Nutnum Suchao 90+1'), 15. Surat Sukha, 17. Anawin Jujeen, 19. Kai Hirano (40. Goran Jerkovic 82'), 23. Anthony Ampaipitakwong (13. Jirawat Makkharom 103'), 25. Suree Sukha
Substitutes Not Used: 6. Tanasak Srisai, 14. Chitpat Thanklang, 16. Domtasong Suriya, 26. Yotsapon Teangdar (Gk)

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic (19. Jack Hingert 37'), 7. Besart Berisha, 9. Stefan Nijland (14. Steven Lustica, 114'), 11. Ben Halloran (21. James Meyer 116'), 13. Jade North, 15. James Donachie, 17. Mitch Nichols, 18. Luke Brattan, 22. Thomas Broich (C)
Substitutes Not Used: 4. Matt Jurman, 20. Matt Acton (Gk), 25. George Lambadaridis, 26. Corey Brown

Yellow Cards: Charyl Chappius 98', Anawin Jujeen 116'
Red Cards: Nil

Yellow Cards: James Donachie 13', Stefan Nijland 35', Thomas Broich 38', Besart Berisha 89'
Red Cards: Nil

of goal, shooting marginally wide after he was found in space down the left wing – clearly the best chance of the extra 30 minutes played. A penalty shootout followed and Sirawak saved three of Brisbane's spot-kicks – from Broich, Berisha and substitute James Meyer – while Osmar, Chappuis and Buriram's own substitute Jirawat Makkharom all converted to win their side qualification to the 2013 edition of the AFC Champions League.

SHORT PASSES

La Rocca Signs for the Long Haul



Versatile defender Iacopo La Rocca has signed with the NRMA Insurance Western Sydney Wanderers for two more seasons.

La Rocca committed to the red and blacks until the end of the 2014/15 season as coach Tony Popovic looks to shape the future of the Hyundai A-League's newest club.

Popovic said La Rocca brought a lot to the squad with his ball distribution, defence and versatility.

"Iacopo is very good on the ball and his distribution is a real asset of his and we feel that he can help us move forward in the near term and the long term," Popovic said.

"He is a quality player and a quality person and we feel that he will only get better and better."

The 28-year-old Italian is the eighth player the Club has re-signed this year along with Mateo Poljak, Shannon Cole, Adam D'Apuzzo, Ante Covic, Michael Beauchamp, Jerome Polenz and Yousouf Hersi.

He is the first player to secure a two-year extension.

Phoenix Sign Young Fulham Striker



Wellington Phoenix has signed young Fulham striker Corey Gameiro on loan till the end of the Hyundai A-League season.

Gameiro, 20, had an outstanding under-19 AFC championship for Australia, remarkably scoring all six of Australia's goals at the tournament to help them qualify for the 2013 Fifa under-20 World Cup.

A hard-working speedy striker, Gameiro has recently been on loan with top Dutch club FC Eindhoven where he made eight appearances.

Phoenix coach Ricki Herbert said he was delighted to secure Gameiro's services till the end of the season as his arrival will add pace and depth to the squad.

Reds secure Juric for remainder of Season 8



Adelaide United FC has secured the services of young striker Tomi Juric on a short term contract until the end of the current Hyundai A-League season.

Juric arrived in Adelaide on Tuesday from Croatia, where he has been playing with 1st Division side NK Inter Zapresic. Born in Sydney, the 21 year old was plying his trade in Croatia but has taken up the opportunity to return to his country of birth to suit up for the Reds.

Interim Reds Coach Michael Valkanis is excited about adding the 189cm marksman to his squad and is confident he will not take long to acclimatise.

SFC Signs Jarrod Kyle To Bolster Attack



Sydney FC has bolstered its attacking stocks by signing former Sheffield Wednesday junior Jarrod Kyle until the end of the 2012/13 Hyundai A-League season.

The 19-year-old Australian spent three seasons in England with Sheffield Wednesday but spent a week trialling with Sydney FC, including taking part in the recent friendly against Tahiti, and put pen to paper on Monday night, before the transfer window closed in Australia.

SFC cut ties with Culina



Sydney FC have terminated midfielder Jason Culina's contract after his training ground disagreement with coach Frank Farina last week. The 32-year-old was reportedly told he would not start for the Sky Blues against Brisbane Roar last Sunday, and then refused to train with the National Youth League team after exchanging words with Farina.

After a 'series of phone calls' on Monday between Sydney CEO Tony Pignata and Culina and his management, the former Socceroo's contract was terminated. "Sydney FC has this afternoon agreed to mutually terminate the contract of Jason Culina," Pignata said in a statement.

"We would like to wish Jason the best of luck with the rest of his football career."



Bust Up: Culina's brief stint at Sydney FC comes to an end.

injury. He scored two goals in eight appearances for Sydney, adding much-needed quality to their midfield. Culina said his departure from the club was 'unfortunate' but insists he wants to continue his career elsewhere.

"I would like to thank Sydney FC for assisting me with my rehabilita-

tion and my return to football," he said. "I would like to thank the board, management, coaching staff, players and especially physiotherapist Stan Ivancic. "The circumstances surrounding my departure are unfortunate but I feel fit and strong and I am determined to continue my playing career in the future."

Mullen joins Victory



Melbourne Victory have found a replacement for injured defender Nick Ansell, landing centre-back Daniel Mullen on a

loan deal.

The 23-year-old joins the A-League club from Chinese Super League club Dalian Aerbin for the rest of the season, and will arrive in Melbourne on Tuesday to link up with his new side. With Ansell struck down with a serious groin injury that could see him battle to return ahead of the A-League's final series, Victory coach Ange Postecoglou was forced to field midfielder Leigh Broxham in defence in the 1-0 loss to Mullen's former side Adelaide United on Friday.

Mullen is likely to be available in time for Victory's highly anticipated meeting with Western Sydney on Saturday, with Postecoglou's side having lost second spot on the table to the Wanderers over the weekend.

"With Nick Ansell's unfortunate groin injury, Daniel's arrival provides a bit more defensive depth and cover in our squad for the rest of this season," Postecoglou said via club statement. "Daniel has already shown his talent in the A-League during his four years



Daniel Mullen heads back to Oz

with Adelaide United and he has continued to show plenty of potential at his Chinese club, Dalian Aerbin since he left Adelaide last year.

"We have no doubt that he'll be able to make an impact for us this season and potentially could remain with the club beyond finals."

A former Australia youth international, Mullen spent four years at Adelaide United and made 79 appearances for the club before departing for China in July 2012.

He picked up a sole Australia cap in 2009, and made 15 appearances - including 14 starts - in the 2012 Chinese Super League campaign.

THIS IS FOOTBALL

www.thisisfootball.com.au

CLUB KIT SPECIALIST

P: 03 9428 3066

189 Swan Street Richmond Vic 3121. Email: thisisfootball@live.com.au

VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR

FFA launches National Premier Leagues

Football Federation Australia (FFA) launched the National Premier Leagues (NPL) model for the semi-professional state-based competitions in Australian football on Wednesday.

The NPL model brings national guidelines for the state and territory elite club competitions for the first time. The NPL competition in each state and territory will be run by the Member Federation, with a national play-off at the end of each winter season.

FFA CEO David Gallop said the introduction of the NPL model was a "landmark in the development of Australian football". "The semi-pro state league clubs have long been the engine room of Australia's player development system and have always provided a local focus of football passion across the nation," said Gallop. "Today's launch of the National Premier Leagues model gives the state-based competitions the status and organisational structure they deserve. "This model is the product of National Competitions Review (NCR), a hugely important piece of policy development over the past two years.



The key features of the NPL are;

- A common brand and logo
- Qualified Technical Directors at each club
- Consistent player pathways in each state and territory
- Player Points System (PPS) to encourage youth development
- Revised Compensation System to reward clubs producing A-League players
- Improved finance and business planning under a club licensing scheme

"I commend our Member Federations, the constituent clubs and the FFA staff for their commitment to the cause. This work will shape football across the nation for years to come." The phased national roll out of the NCR recommendations will see 70 clubs across Queensland, NSW, South Australia, ACT and Tasmania implement changes this year. In 2014, Victoria, Northern NSW and Western Australia propose to roll out the NCR changes. Due to its smaller scale, Northern Territory will adopt a partial model. "The NCR is a key outcome of our strategic plan which has the objective to better connect community football to the professional tier," said Gallop. "The National Premier Leagues model is a vital conduit from the grassroots to the Hyundai A-League. The strategy is sound, but now all parties need to redouble their efforts to ensure the implementation brings the desired results. "In short, our aim is to see highly qualified coaches employed by stable and well-run NPL clubs producing better Australian players from under 12 to under 18, then under 20s and finally to senior ranks."

PHOENIX SIGN HERNANDEZ



Carlos Hernandez with David Beckham after a Victory v Galaxy tour match in 2012. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



The Wellington Phoenix has signalled its future intent by signing Carlos Hernandez on a two-year contract.

The former Melbourne Victory star, winner of the Johnny Warren Medal for best player in the Hyundai A-League in 2009-10, will join the Phoenix when his contract with Indian I-League club Prayag United ends in June.

The influential midfielder scored 40 goals in 138 games for the Victory and his creative talents will be a welcome boost for the Phoenix.

Hernandez, 30, is a player Phoenix head coach Ricki Herbert has coveted for some time, and the feeling was reciprocated from the moment Herbert contacted the player last month.

In the early conversations between the pair Hernandez

made it plain he was keen on moving to Wellington.

"I've always had a good relationship with Carlos and from the first call I made to him our talks were positive," Herbert said.

"Getting Carlos to Wellington is a massive signing for the Phoenix because everyone has seen the impact he made in the A-League.

"He is an exciting player who can make things very difficult for the opposition and is a dead ball specialist.

"It was important that when a player of Carlos' ability became available that the club should try and get him here. It signals the direction the Club is taking and Carlos fits perfect with our strategy.

"The fact that he has been A-League player of the year says it all as that is voted on by his peers.

"I'm delighted Carlos has decided to continue his career with the Phoenix."

CAPTAIN SMITH OUT FOR SEASON



Brisbane Roar confirms that captain Matt Smith will miss the remainder of the current Hyundai A-League season after having surgery on his hip injury.

Smith hasn't played or trained in over four weeks with his hip labrum tear keeping him out of action for the club since

the 1-0 loss to Newcastle Jets in mid-January.

After a review with the surgeon last Monday, it was decided late Tuesday afternoon that surgery was Smith's best option.

With an estimated three to four months recovery time, the 30-year-old is no chance to play any more part in Brisbane's 2012/13 season.

"I am bitterly disappointed to be out for the rest of the season," Smith said. "I am still confident the rest of the boys can finish off the season well and I'm now firmly focused on working hard in my recovery."

The rest of the Roar squad flew to Thailand to prepare for the cut-throat AFC Champions League qualifier against Buriram United before returning home to play Wellington Phoenix at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday.



FORMER STARS TAKE REINS AS FERGUSON FIRED



Rock Bottom: Ian Ferguson in charge of his last game in Perth Glory's 2-0 defeat to Melbourne Heart. Photo: ANITA MILAS



The 'unacceptable' performance of Perth Glory led to the dismissal of Ian Ferguson as coach, owner

Tony Sage said on Monday.

Ferguson was dismissed after almost two-and-a-half years in the role he had inherited from David Mitchell, with Australia Under-17 coach and former Glory striker Alistair Edwards appointed as interim coach for the remainder of the season.

Ferguson led the Glory to the 2011/12 A-League Grand Final, but Perth have failed to emulate that form this season and had slumped to the bottom of the table.

A fifth-straight loss on Saturday – to Melbourne Heart – was the final straw, with Sage fronting the press on Monday to confirm reports Ferguson had been sacked and Edwards and assistant Gareth Naven had been appointed.

"It was mutually agreed that (Ferguson) leave the club, and we have appointed Alistair Edwards as the new manager, and as his assistant, Gareth Naven," Sage

told reporters, going on to thank Football Federation Australia for temporarily releasing Edwards from his national team duties.

"(Ferguson) agreed that it was unacceptable being bottom of the league, given the squad he's got, and we again mutually agreed it's best for him to go.

"It's an interim situation. What we're going to do from tomorrow, under (deputy chairman) Lui Giuliani, is advertise worldwide for a coach for next season."

Sage said he did not believe Ferguson had 'lost the players', but he disagreed with the Scot's assessment after Saturday's loss to Melbourne Heart that he lacked squad depth due to budget cuts.

"I don't agree with that. He had the full support of finances. He assembled his squad by June 30. That squad cost \$3.2 million. Our salary cap is \$2.5 million, so I can't understand a comment like that," Sage said.

"I take that as a slight on the club."

Sage also revealed he was 'upset' with the comments made by Ferguson about the chairman's health, but was adamant it had no

bearing on his departure.

Glory are hoping to have their new full-time coach in place by 'late May or early June', with Edwards or Naven free to apply for the role should they desire.

Edwards empathised with Ferguson's sacking, and revealed he had called the former North Queensland Fury coach soon after being offered the Glory job.

"There's no doubt it's a fantastic club. It's one of the biggest clubs in the A-League. It's got a fantastic history," Edwards said.

"(Ferguson) has taken the team to the grand final the previous year, so to now be in the situation he is shows the perilous nature of football.

"We discussed that as a playing group just before we came into this press conference, and we're really looking forward to moving forward, bearing in mind we should acknowledge publicly the contribution Ian has made to the game."

On speculation of his poor health, Sage admitted he would be undergoing an operation on Tuesday but could be back 'running' by next week, according to doctors.

SHORT PASSES

Magnificent McGlinchey commits to Mariners



ATTACKING dynamo Michael McGlinchey has committed the next two years of his professional football career to Central Coast Mariners FC, inking

an extension to his current deal with the Hyundai A-League table-toppers.

26-year-old McGlinchey linked with the Mariners in 2009 and has since made an impressive 110 competitive appearances for the yellow and navy.

The New Zealand international has blossomed into one of the Hyundai A-League's most influential midfielders during his time with the men from Bluetongue Stadium, and it has been this consistent and eye-catching form that attracted the advances of several rival A-League clubs eager to secure his signature.

Fyfe signs on for another two years



Veteran Adelaide United FC defender Iain Fyfe will remain a Red until at least the end of the Hyundai A-League 2014/15 Season

after penning a two year contract extension with the club.

At 30 years of age, the new deal will see the Adelaide born centre back will become one of the Hyundai A-League's longest serving players, having made 157 appearances and scoring nine goals to date (88 of his appearances and four goals were for Sydney FC).

SFC EXTENDS FARINA CONTRACT



Sydney FC has extended the contract of Head Coach Frank Farina for a further two years, which will see

the former Socceroos coach pilot the Sky Blues through to the end of the 2014/15 season.

Lucas Neill To Heart?



Socceroos captain Lucas Neill is poised to sign for Melbourne Heart, joining the ranks of Australian internationals returning to the A-League.

It's believed Neill is in talks with Heart on Thursday morning and is close to agreeing terms.

It's unlikely he will be involved this weekend but would be available for the following round – against Sydney FC, marking Alessandro Del Piero.



Goal! Weekly is seeking budding reporters and journalists to contribute and become involved with this fine football publication.

If you think you've got what it takes, then wait no more and give the office a call on (03) 9551 7538. Better still, send us an email at news@goalweekly.com

JOIN SOUTH MELBOURNE WOMEN'S SOCCER CLUB TODAY!

GIRLS AGED 7 TO 17 YEARS BEGINNERS AND EXPERIENCED WELCOME

For more information contact: southmelbournewfc@gmail.com or call Alex on 0408 560 206

www.southmelbournewfc.com.au



SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	20	12	6	2	36	14	22	42
2 West Sydney Wanderers	20	12	2	6	28	17	11	38
3 Melbourne Victory	20	11	3	6	33	30	3	36
4 Adelaide United	20	11	2	7	31	28	3	35
5 Melbourne Heart	20	7	3	10	26	27	-1	24
6 Sydney FC	20	7	3	10	32	40	-8	24
7 Newcastle Jets	20	6	5	9	24	33	-9	23
8 Brisbane Roar	20	6	3	11	24	26	-2	21
9 Wellington Phoenix	20	5	5	10	22	37	-15	20
10 Perth Glory	20	5	4	11	18	22	-4	19

THIS WEEK	ROUND 21	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
	Fri Feb 15	Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Heart	Hunter Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
	Sat Feb 16	Sydney FC v Adelaide United	Allianz Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat Feb 16	Melbourne Victory v West Sydney Wanderers	AAMI Park	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sat Feb 16	Perth Glory v Central Coast Mariners	nib Stadium	6:45pm	9:45pm
	Sun Feb 17	Brisbane Roar v Wellington Phoenix	Suncorp Stadium	4:00pm	5:00pm

NEXT WEEK	ROUND 22	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
	Fri Feb 22	Newcastle Jets v Brisbane Roar	Hunter Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
	Sat Feb 23	W Sydney Wanderers v Perth Glory	Parramatta Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat Feb 23	Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory	Bluetongue Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sun Feb 24	Wellington Phoenix v Adelaide United	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
	Sun Feb 24	Melbourne Heart v Sydney FC	AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

ROUND 20 RESULTS

Sydney FC 2 (Del Piero 7, Triantis 70)

Brisbane Roar 1 (Berisha 45p)

Crowd: 14,589 @ Allianz Stadium

Western Sydney Wanderers 2 (Hersi 46, Bridge 83)

Newcastle 1 (Zadkovich 90+1)

Crowd: 10,589 @ Campbelltown Stadium

Melbourne Heart 2 (Kalmar 23, Babalj 56)

Perth Glory 0

Crowd: 6096 @ AAMI Park

Adelaide United 1 (Jeronimo '42)

Melbourne Victory 0

Crowd: 12,025 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

Central Coast Mariners 5

(Ibini 30, 86, Hutchinson 65, McBreen 69, Duke 89)

Wellington Phoenix 0

Crowd: 6,774 @ Bluetongue Stadium

TOP GOAL SCORERS

- 15 - Daniel McBREEN (Mariners)
- 12 - Marco ROJAS (Victory)
- 11 - Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoenix)
- Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)
- Besart BERISHA (Roar)
- 8 - Mark BRIDGE (Wanderers)
- Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide)
- Emile HESKEY (Jets)
- Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)
- 7 - Archie THOMPSON (Victory)



Del Piero etched his name into the Sydney FC history books, as his seventh minute strike against Roar not only gave Sydney a fabulous start, but secured his position as the highest goal scorer in a single season for the Sky Blues.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 20

Compiled by
Steven Talevski



GK: Mark Birighitti – Despite his side going down 2-1 to the Wanderers, Birighitti was superb between the sticks saving several Western Sydney strikes allowing him to keep his side in the game.

RB: Jeremy Walker – With the Melbourne Heart defence decimated in recent months with the sale of four key defenders, Walker has stepped into the starting eleven and has made that position his own with his performance on the weekend being his best to date.

CB: Trent Sainsbury – A solid rock in his team's defence, Sainsbury minimised the Phoenix attack allowing his side to have a dominating five nil performance.

CB: John McKain – The central defender was at his best against an inform Victory attack helping his side to a clean sheet and allowing them to keep pace with the top three.

LB: Josh Rose – Rose had a terrific game, making the left wing his own and creating numerous headaches for the Phoenix with scintillating runs down the field.

CDM: Ryan Grant – Placed in midfield this week, Grant was superb in the middle of the park as he helped Sydney FC to a 2-1 victory as they chase down a top six spot.

RM: Youssouf Hersi – Another terrific performance from the Dutch import as he opened the scoring in the Wanderers 2-1 victory over the Jets which saw them move into second position on the table.

LM: Nick Kalmar – Given a start, Kalmar had a man of the match performance which was highlighted by a spectacular free kick.

CAM: Alessandro Del Piero – The Italian maestro may have been in the headlines before the match about his Sydney FC future, but come to the final whistle it was all about his terrific performance which was capped off with the games opener.

ST: Bernie Ibini – With Socceroo Tom Rogic leaving the Mariners, Ibini has stepped up to fill his shoes and found the back of the net twice as the attacker continues to impress since returning from his trial in Belgium.

ST: Mark Bridge – The hard working attacker was once again rewarded with a goal as he broke through the Jets defence with strength and then belted the ball into the back of the net.

Coach: Graham Arnold – There was no stopping the Mariners this week as they smashed Wellington five nil in a dominant performance. With the Wanderers and Victory attempting to catch them in first spot, Arnold has kept his side focused on the major prize which was highlighted this week by that terrific performance.

Star Man

Nick Kalmar
Melb Heart



Handed a start by John Aloisi, Kalmar did not disappoint in the midfield where his eye to attack was evident. The midfielder also took responsibility of the set pieces and sent one into the top corner handing glory goalkeeper Danny Vukovic no chance. With the Heart now in fifth position, Kalmar could prove to be an important player leading into the finals and beyond.

Thank God It's Friday... **GW is available at all good newsagents every Friday**

Follow us on: [facebook](#) [twitter](#)

Publisher:
Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd
PO Box 142 Port Melb VIC 3207
Ph: 03 9551 7538

Distribution:
All Day Distribution
Tel: (03) 9482 1145

Advertising: 03 9551 7538
Email: news@goalweekly.com
Letters: mailbag@goalweekly.com
Web: www.goalweekly.com

Goal! Weekly endeavours to be as accurate as possible with everything it publishes. The Fair Trading Act 1999 requires Goal! Weekly to disclaim any belief in the truth or falsity of information which is supplied to it and which is published in other than editorial content.

goal! Weekly

If your business or organisation would like to advertise or sponsor a page in GW please contact (03) 9551 7538 for further details

CC Mariners



5

Wellington Phoenix



0

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 5

(Ibini 30', 86', Hutchinson 65', McBreen 69', Duke 90')

Wellington Phoenix 0

Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones

Attendance: 6,774

Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew RYAN (Gk), 2. Daniel MCBREEN, 3. Joshua ROSE, 4. Pedj BOJIC, 6. Patrick ZWAANSWIJK (5. Zachary ANDERSON 90'), 7. John HUTCHINSON (c), 9. Bernie IBINI, 14. Michael MCGLINCHY (29. Nicholas FITZGERALD 79'), 16. Trent SAINSBURY, 18. Nick MONTGOMERY, 21. Mile STERJOVSKI (19. Mitchell DUKE 69')

Subs not used: 20. Justin PASFIELD (Gk)

Yellow cards: Zwaanswijk, Hutchinson
Red cards: Nil

Wellington Phoenix: 1. Mark PASTON (Gk), 2. Emmanuel MUSCAT, 4. Isaka CERNAK, 5. Michael BOXALL, 8. Paul IFILL, 10. Stein HUYSEGEMS (12. Tyler BOYD 60'), 11. Jeremy BROCKIE (9. Benjamin TOTORI 69'), 14. Ian HOGG, 16. Louis FENTON (21. Dani SANCHEZ 78'), 17. Vince LIA, 22. Andrew DURANTE (c)

Substitutes not used: 20. Glen MOSS (Gk)

Yellow cards: Brockie, Boyd
Red cards: Nil

Wellington Phoenix – Rising or Burning?

By Adrian Deans

I fear for Ricky Herbert.

He's been a marvellous servant for kiwi football, but he's lost his team. That usually can have only one outcome and it will be hard for him to survive this performance. With the possible exception of the 7 – 2 drubbing of Sydney FC in Round 5, I have never seen the Mariners dominate a match so completely. The fact that it was only 5 – 0 says far more about the poor Mariners finishing than it does about any famous kiwi resilience. There was none.

Having said all that, the Mariners were exceptional (finishing aside). The system is strong and all the players know it. On top of that, the players are all very quick with great first touch. This enables them to move the ball quickly to where it can do the most damage. And up front they have players who can make plenty of chances (they need plenty!). Daniel McBreen is flying, and Bernie Ibini, since his return from Bruges, is bristling with confidence – he now looks twice the player and caused problems for the Phoenix all night. (Mind you, he needs to trust his pace a bit more, and continue his runs after passing.)

Somehow, the Phoenix lasted half an hour before conceding the first, but the signs were there early. The home side immediately wrested possession from the kiwis and kept it all night. Wellington sat deep and let the Mariners set up waves of attack which had to break through in the end. Josh Rose got in behind and his driven near post ball ricocheted off Ian Hogg and Mark Paston, and dropped neatly for Ibini – not even the Mariners could miss from there (although I would have said the same thing about several later chances).

After half time, the Mariners came out determined to make their dominance count on the scoreboard. The midfield started going through its gears and suddenly they were flying

Match Stats		
1	Saves	7
16	Attempts on target	3
6	Attempts off target	3
58%	Possession	42%
8	Corners	4
3	Offsides	1
6	Fouls committed	14



Bernie Ibini scores a brace and salutes the Bluetongue Stadium faithful. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

in. Sterjovski (like Rose earlier) got in behind the defence and whacked a ball across the face for a disbelieving Hutchinson, who drilled into the roof of the net from three metres. Straight afterward, McGlinchey's corner was powered past Paston at the near post by McBreen's header, and the game was effectively over.

If all that wasn't bad enough for Wellington, Arnold sent on new crowd favourite, Mitchell Duke, to torment their tiring legs. He created his usual havoc and finished the rout on 89 minutes after Ibini had been set up for a second by McBreen. Five nil, but it should have been ten.

The key difference between the

two sides was that the Mariners had a system. The Phoenix did not. When the Mariners won the ball, they would automatically snap into the one and two touch drills designed to create time and space – anywhere. That's what the game is most fundamentally about – having time and space to hurt the opposition with the ball. In contrast, when Wellington won the ball, you could almost hear the cogs clunking in their brains – "Now what do I do?" They dithered, and were closed down by a Mariners defence that almost seems to enjoy playing without the ball because it is so much fun to win back.

It is almost impossible to pick a man of the match. The entire Mariners team were superb. Matt Ryan had little to do but still managed a flying save to disappoint Isaka Cernak (when it was still only one nil). The back four were great – Sainsbury in particular, with a couple of late tackles and a header off the line.

The midfield was magnificent. Hutchinson and Montgomery won possession all night and started attacks with fast service to the wide men. Ibini ran riot and McGlinchey pulled the strings around the Phoenix third. You could (rightly) say the Phoenix were just terrible, but

the Mariners were several classes above and will derive huge confidence from this performance.

As for the Phoenix – sometimes it rises, but this time it burned.

Adrian Deans is the author of *Mr Clean Sheets* – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. Ebook also available. www.mrcleansheets.com

Man of the Match
John Hutchinson
(Mariners)



The Phoenix defensive concerns continue to mount after another leaky outing. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



Man of the match John Hutchinson is rewarded for a five-star performance with a goal to break his drought. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

Target 5000

Become a Mariners Member today and you could score yourself a Lifetime Membership!*

Show your support for the Central Coast Mariners and help us reach 5,000 Members!

SIGN UP NOW! ONLINE: ccmariners-memberships.com.au PHONE: 4353 7200

PART PAYMENTS also available

*Terms and Conditions apply

Adelaide United



1

Melbourne Victory



0

Match Details

Adelaide United FC 1
(Neumann 43')

Melbourne Victory 0

Referee: Jarred Gillett

Crowd: 12,029 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide United: 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c), 2.Osama Malik, 4.Jon McKain (14.Cameron Watson 81'), 5.Iain Fyfe, 6.Cassio, 8.Marcelo Carrusca, 10.Dario Vidosic, 12.Antony Golec, 17.Iain Ramsay, 21.Jeronimo Neumann (16.Daniel Bowles 75'), 23.Evan Kostopoulos (24.Awer Mabil 90')

Substitutes not used: 30.John Hall (gk)

Yellow Cards: McKain 13', Malik 20', Cassio 29', Neumann 34', Ramsay 41', Bowles 90+2'
Red Cards: Nil

Melbourne Victory: 39.Nathan Coe (gk), 3.Adama Traore, 6.Leigh Broxham, 8.Jonathan Bru (13. Diogo Ferreira 77'), 9.Marcos Flores, 10.Archie Thompson (32. Connor Pain 35'), 11.Marco Rojas, 14.Billy Celeski, 18.Francesco Stella (22.Jesse Makarounas 57'), 23.Adrian Leijer (c), 31.Scott Galloway

Substitutes not used: 1.Tando Velaphi (gk)
Yellow Cards: Flores 61'
Red Cards: Traore 76'

Passion and execution take Reds to victory

By Matt Mays

In one of the feistiest games of football of this A League season, Adelaide United snatched all three points after hanging on to a slender one goal advantage against a timid Melbourne Victory side.

The Victory was aiming to increase the gap between them and their territorial neighbours to seven points whilst maintaining the heat on first placed Mariners. While Adelaide were hoping to give stand-in boss Valkanis his first three points, and stay in the hunt for a spot in the finals.

The game started as expected, with lots of challenges. Game plan or not, Adelaide's physicality was punished with 5 yellow cards and their coach sent to the stands by the time the first half whistle was blown.

The Reds started the brighter, breaking down Victory's play well, especially with McKain in the middle of the park. The Reds set up with a 4-1-4-1 with Vidosic playing wide off of Jeromino. And with Djite still sidelined it was up to the Argentine to steal the limelight.

Adelaide should have been a goal up after only 5 minutes. Iain Ramsey hitting the bar from 2 metres out after Vidosic headed the ball over the Victory keeper. It looked as though it was easier to miss than score and his kick against the goalpost after proved his frustration.

Adelaide's South American duo almost produced in the 26th minute. Cassio almost found Jeromino with a delightful cross but his header just over the bar. A very scrappy and nervous first half sparked to life. After a break in play, and another refereeing decision which went against the home side, Valkanis got sent his



Adelaide United's Argentine star Jeronimo Neumann rises to the ball best and heads home the all-important winner. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

marching orders after what was later confirmed as foul language towards the officials.

Before Valkanis could take his seat in the terraces, his team broke the deadlock.

Fan favourite Dario Vidosic muscled and tussled his way into space down the left hand side before unleashing a floating cross. Jeronimo showed great strength and determination and beat Coe in goal to the ball and headed home his 7th goal in all competitions of this season.

It brought an end to a pulsating half of football and was a great advert for the A League.

Melbourne Victory started the second half the way they ended the first; on the back foot. Adelaide had chances to seal the

game.

After Coe made a complete hash of a clearance and slipping, Vidosic only had to dink the ball over him but his tame effort was collected graciously by the keeper.

Adelaide looked clam and composed and kept possession well. Ange Postecoglou tried mixing things up for Victory and brought on Makarounas, but he had little effect.

60 minutes in and the Reds were inches away from sealing the tie. Golec produced the pass of the match and found Jeromino from 60 metres away. The Argentine ran on, lobbed Coe only to see his sublime effort bounce agonisingly off the bar.

Victory were beginning to show

their frustration. Flores hammered the young Rojas after he chose to shoot instead of pass. With just 15 minutes left on the clock, Melbourne was dealt a huge blow when the referee produced a red card for Traore after a high tackle. Replays show that contact was very minimal but correct or not, Victory had it all to do from then onwards. Vidosic ran clear minutes later one-on-one against Coe but yet again his finishing eluded him. Adelaide held on for an all important win, and Valkanis praised the passion and commitment of his players after the game.

"It shows what we can do if we all pull together. I'm very proud of them, they've been fantas-

tic."

"Today i wanted the players to show their passion, and we wanted to show the fans how to play like Adelaide United, till the end."

Meanwhile, despite Victory's mediocre performance, Postecoglou was deemed to stick up for his side.

"I'm really pleased with the boys tonight and they put in a really good shift."

"Our composure was good, we had some young players out there in a hostile environment." Man of the match- Iain Ramsey looked incredibly lively. His tricks and fast movement was a joy to watch and caused the Victory problems.



Reds coach Michael Valkanis watches the rest of the match from the stands. He recieved a one match ban during the week from the Match Review Panel. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Eugene Galekovic and Cassio are jubilant as the full time whistle blows on a memorable win. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Ask About Your Adelaide United Supporter Special Offer!

Terms and conditions apply, including offer based on standard installation in REC zone 3, with STC's assigned to Unleash Solar. *Quoted price based on RFP purchase of \$9,655.99. Minimum amount payable \$10,193.41 over a 40 month term, inclusive of Certegy Ezi-Pay fees and required 25% deposit. See in-store for details.

Eliminate Your Power Bill!

A HUGE 5kW Solar System FULLY INSTALLED

25 Year Warranty on Solar Panels - 5 Year Warranty on Inverter

FROM \$45.00 A WEEK*
FOR 40 MONTHS
26 x 195W Panels & 5kW Inverter

OR ASK ABOUT LESS FOR CASH!

HURRY! OFFER ENDS SOON! MON-FRI 8:30AM-8:30PM SAT-SUN 10AM-3PM

We only use quality Tier 1 Solar Panels from Jinko one of the world's largest solar panel manufacturers

1300 350 205
unleashsolar.com.au

unleash **SOLAR**

Sydney FC

2



Brisbane Roar

1



Match Details

Sydney Fc 2 (Alessandro Del Piero 7', Peter Triantis 69')
Brisbane Roar 1 (Besart Berisha 45pen)
 Crowd: 14 589
 Referee: Ben Williams

Sydney Fc: 20. Vedran Janjetovic (Gk), 2. Sebastian Ryall, 3. Fabio, 7. Brett Emerton, 8. Adam Griffiths, 10. Alessandro Del Piero, 12. Blake Powell (16. Joel Chianese 60'), 13. Tiago Calvano, 22. Ali Abbas (17. Terry Antonis 59'), 23. Rhyan Grant, 26. Peter Triantis.

Subs Not Used: 1. Ivan Necevski (Gk), 9. Paul Reid.
 Yellow Cards: Brett Emerton 7', Vedran Janjetovic 45', Ali Abbas 49', Joel Chianese 80'.

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 3. Shane Stefanutto (15. James Donachie 69'), 5. Ivan Franjic, 7. Besart Berisha, 9. Stefan Nijland (25. George Lambadaridis 75'), 13. Jade North, 14. Steven Lustica, 17. Mitchell Nichols, 18. Luke Brattan (11. Ben Halloran 73'), 19. Jack Hingert, 22. Thomas Broich.

Sub Not Used: 20. Matthew Acton (Gk).
 Yellow Cards: Ivan Franjic 35', Besart Berisha 88'

Young Gun Fires SFC Into Top Six Spot

By Daid Mason

A thunderbolt goal from Sydney FC youngster Peter Triantis secured a dominant 2-1 win over Brisbane Roar and sent the Sky Blues into the top six at Allianz Stadium.

A fourth consecutive home win in front of 14,589 passionate fans was the result of a brilliant midfield performance led by Triantis, Alessandro Del Piero and Rhyan Grant.

Del Piero etched his name into the Sydney FC history books, as his seventh minute strike not only gave Sydney a fabulous start, but secured his position as the highest goal scorer in a single season for the Sky Blues.

A Besart Berisha penalty on the cusp of half time led to a few nerves amongst the home faithful before Triantis' strike released the shackles on a nervy crowd, as they cheered their team into sixth spot on the ladder.

Both Fabio and Tiago Calvano were recalled from suspension and Brett Emerton from injury for the fixture by coach Frank Farina as he made three changes to a line up that secured a hard fought 2-2 draw against Newcastle. Making way for the trio were the suspended Terry McFlynn, Nathan Sherlock and Terry Antonis, with the later finding a place on the bench.

The Sky Blues made a flying start to the game, and within seven minutes were in front. Triantis robbed Jade North in his own half and within a flash Powell had played in Del Piero, whose slalom run and finish was far too good for Ivan Franjic and Roar goalkeeper Michael Theo.

Not content with only a one goal lead, Fabio made a terrific lung bursting run down the left flank that culminated with the impressive Powell having a shot blocked.

The left flank was proving promising for the home team, as Del Piero was the next to start a raid down that side of the pitch with his cross causing havoc in the box, as Powell and Emerton both had wayward attempts on goal.



Alessandro Del Piero weaves his magic and leaves the Roar defence for dead. Photo: GREG SEATON

After 14 minutes Janjetovic was called into action for the first time, having to save well from a long range Stefan Nijland effort.

Janjetovic's next piece of work though was a class above, making a fabulous fingertip save from Mitch Nicholls, after the Brisbane midfielder found space on the edge of the Sydney area.

Sydney's harassing in the first half was creating numerous turnovers, and Grant fashioned himself a chance after pressuring North into a turnover, only to shoot straight at a relieved Theo.

As half time neared, it seemed Syd-

ney were bound to lead at the break, only for referee Ben Williams to rule that Fabio had fouled Nijland in the area and award the visitors a spot kick, which Berisha coolly hit into the top left corner.

Sydney came out fired up in the second half and urged on by a boisterous crowd, looked the only team capable of winning the match.

Finding space down the left hand side, Del Piero beat a charging Theo to the ball and from the left side by-line sent in an inviting cross the Blake Powell just couldn't reach.

Ten minutes into the second half saw the visitors have a rare shot, with

Berisha's long range effort flashing past Janjetovic's right hand post.

Del Piero continued to give Hingert a torrid time down the left flank and sent in a pin point cross that saw Powell tee up Grant, whose placed shot from the edge of the box forced Theo to stretch to his left.

An almost identical move led to Sydney's second goal and the match winner. Again Del Piero showed his prowess whipping in a ball that James Donachie could only clear into the path of Triantis who gratefully accepted the invitation to shoot and replied with interest, sending a worm burner into the bottom left hand cor-

ner of the net.

From this point on, Sydney barely looked threatened in defence and had three great chances to double their lead, all from Del Piero's deadly right boot at set pieces.

With seven minutes remaining the Italian saw an exquisite 25m effort rebound off the crossbar, which left Theo floundering in its wake.

Giving Theo a torrid time, Del Piero tried his luck twice injury time to score a 12th goal of the season, seeing both efforts scrambled away by the Roar goalkeeper.

	Match Stats	
4	Saves	4
6	Attempts on target	5
9	Attempts off target	5
42%	Possession	58%
3	Corners	4
2	Offsides	5
18	Fouls committed	8



Hit for Six: Peter Triantis scores the winner and the Sky Blues are on their way into a top six finals spot. Photo: GREG SEATON



Besart Berisha makes no mistake from the penalty spot and levels the scores before half-time. Photo: GREG SEATON



GIVE YOUR CLUB THE EDGE THIS SEASON IN PELADA

To give your club a unique and noticeable team strip, take a closer look at Pelada and experience the difference.

• PLAYING KITS • GOAL KEEPER KITS • TRAINING GEAR • COMPRESSION WEAR & ACCESSORIES



'Like' us on Facebook for all things football, as well as regular freebies & giveaways. www.facebook.com/PeladaAustralia

CALL US TODAY
1800 730 739



peladã

pelada.com.au

PICS OF ROUND 20



Les Shorrock's
Action Packed
Picture Page



W-League champions Sydney FC have a nice little piece of silverware to share for Show & Tell to the home crowd. Photo: GREG SEATON



The Cove are set to sail again after their boys are back in the top six. Photo: GREG SEATON



It was a case of Red sails in the sunset at Hindmarsh Stadium. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER



Western Sydney Wanderers fans are in the Twilight Zone this debut season. Photo: ALI ERHAN



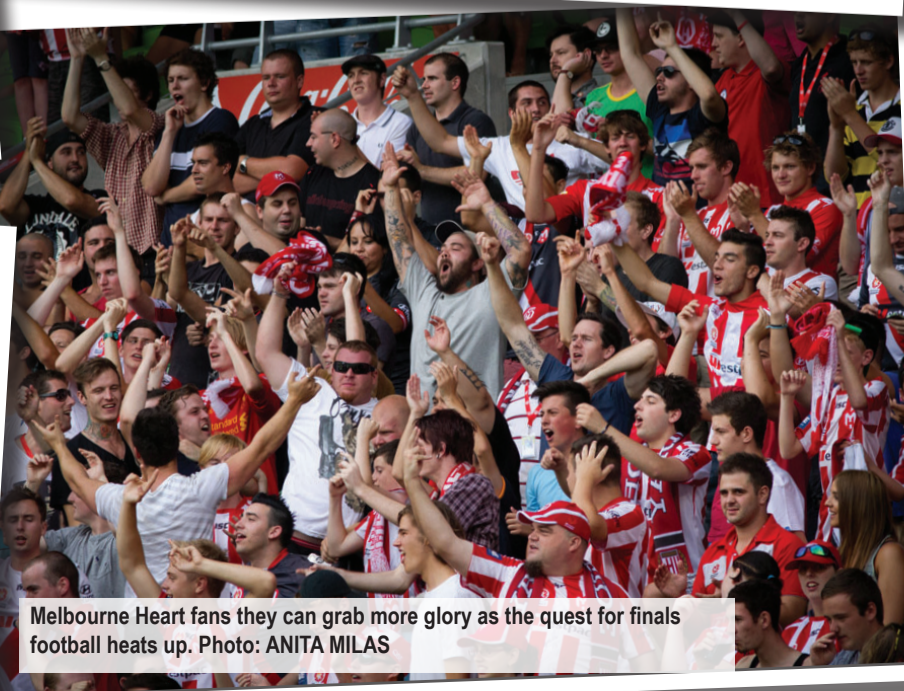
Nobody can accuse Wanderers fans of sitting on the fence. PHOTO: ALI ERHAN



Adelaide United had plenty of juice in its beatle when it took on Victory. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Who needs a City of Churches when you've got own gods to salute. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Melbourne Heart fans they can grab more glory as the quest for finals football heats up. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Jets Line Up

- Ben Kennedy (gk)
- Zenon Caravella
- Josh Mitchell
- Dominik Ritter
- James Brown
- Ruben Zadkovich (c)
- Emile Heskey
- Connor Chapman
- Josh Brillante
- Sam Galloway
- Taylor Regan
- Craig Goodwin
- James Virgili
- Jacob Pepper
- Michael Bridges
- Mark Birighitti (gk)
- Adam Taggart
- Ryan Griffiths
- Mitch Cooper
- Andrew Hoole (Five to be omitted)

Ins: James Brown, Dominik Ritter

Outs: Scott Neville

Unavailable: Ben Kantarovski (knee/season)

Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Heart

By Shaun Dyas

A true six-pointer is poised to take place on Friday night as the Newcastle Jets face Melbourne Heart in a match that will have significant bearings on both sides' finals chances.

After a 2-0 victory over the Perth Glory last week, the Heart currently sin in 5th place on 24 points. The Jets succumbed 2-1 last week to the Wanderers which leaves them in 7th place, but only one point behind 5th placed Heart and 6th placed Sydney.

Newcastle should be confident going into this match as the heart has a truly woeful away record. The Heart has struggled all season to pick up points away from AAMI Park. In fact they have only picked up a solitary point outside of Melbourne all season.

They face a Newcastle side that will be desperate to take advantage of this and enter the top six at the extent of the Heart. One thing the Jets will have to be wary of is the Heart's ability to get off to a fast start. In both matches between the sides this season, the Heart has taken early leads on both occasions.

Newcastle will need their defence to stand up to prevent this, as on both occasions it was slack defensive work from Scott Neville and Connor Chapman respectively that led to the Jets having



Referee: Chris Beath

The Odds

Jets 2.15
Draw 3.50
Heart 3.60

ABC Radio Coverage
- 1233 Newcastle, Grandstand Digital & online

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #JETSvMH

to overcome early deficits.

These deficiencies have occurred in recent weeks as both goals conceded against Sydney in the Jets last home game would suggest so it is a definite area of concern that the Heart could exploit.

It will be up to players like David Williams, Eli Babalj and Richard Garcia to apply pressure in forward areas to try and create opportunities on the counter.

If Newcastle can manage to play through this pressure, they have more than enough firepower to be able to overcome the Heart.

If players like Ruben Zadkovich

and Zenon Caravella can get enough early ball to Newcastle's dangerous wide players, Newcastle have more than enough goals in them to defeat the Heart.

Especially given that they can feed English import Emile Heskey with this supply. He has scored 8 goals this season as has his partner Ryan Griffiths. Together the pair has accounted for over two-thirds of the teams goals this season.

A lot of this game will depend on just which Melbourne Heart side decides to show up on the day. The Heart has been breatching in some games this sea-

son and quite ordinary in others.

Coach John Aloisi must be tearing his hair out as he and his team search for that elusive consistency.

I feel they will struggle in this game as over 10,000 Novocastrians cheer themselves hoarse in an effort to get their side over the line.

The simple fact that this match is in Newcastle stacks the odds in favour of the Jets and if they don't come out on top in this one they simply will not deserve a place in the finals.

**Kiss of Death
Jets 2-0 Heart**

MELBOURNE HEART



Heart Line Up

- Clint Bolton (Gk)
- Simon Colosimo
- Fred
- Patrick Gerhardt
- Matthew Thompson
- Dylan Macallister
- Richard Garcia
- Jonatan German
- Golgol Mebrahtu
- David Williams
- Marcel Meeuwis
- Jason Hoffman
- David Vrankovic
- Andrew Redmayne (GK)
- Jamie Coyne
- Nick Kalmar
- Jeremy Walker
- Eli Babalj
- (Three to be omitted)

Ins: 4. Simon Colosimo (returns from injury), 5.Fred (returns from injury) 16. Marcel Meeuwis (transfer)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 10. Josip Tadic (broken toe – 3-5 weeks), 23.Mate Dugandzic (broken foot – season) 24. Sam Mitchinson (quad strain - three weeks)



SYDNEY FC

Sydney FC Line Up

- Ivan Necevski (gk)
- Sebastian Ryall
- Fabio
- Adam Griffiths
- Paul Reid
- Alessandro Del Piero
- Blake Powell
- Tiago Calvano
- Mitch Mallia
- Terry McFlynn
- Joel Chianese
- Terry Antonis
- Trent McClenahan
- Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
- Yairo Yau
- Rhyan Grant
- Peter Triantis
- (Two to be omitted).

Ins: Yairo Yau (returns from international duty), Terry McFlynn (returns from suspension), Mitch Mallia (promoted), Trent McClenahan (promoted)

Outs: Ali Abbas (suspended, 1 week), Brett Emerton(suspended, 1 week)

Unavailable: Pascal Bosschaart (heel, season), Kruno Lovrek (knee, 4 weeks), Joel Griffiths (suspended, 1 week)

Sydney FC v Adelaide United

By FFA

Historically there's never much between these two clubs – as the head-to-head record suggests - and this clash should be no different. Sydney are enjoying a better run of form and last weekend's 2-1 win over Brisbane saw the club move back into the top six for the first time since round four.

Frank Farina's side have lost just one of their last five matches and have won four in a row at Allianz Stadium. They will be forced into a few changes though with midfielders Brett Emerton and Ali Abbas joining Joel Griffiths on the suspended list following yellow cards against the Roar.

Skipper Terry McFlynn and Yairo Yau are available for selection again though. Adelaide snapped a three-game losing streak with a morale-boosting 1-0 over Melbourne Victory last time out. It was a first win for new coach Michael Valkanis and kept the Reds alive for a possible top-two finish.

Valkanis will be forced to watch this match from the stands though after picking up a one-game ban for abusing the referee last weekend. New signing Tomi Juric could be included in the squad. The Reds have won both clashes between the two sides this season, including a crushing 3-0 win on New Years Eve.

The Big Issue

Sydney: The Sky Blues defence has struggled this season when faced with players that have a bit of pace and in Iain Ramsay and Evan Kostopoulos



Referee: Strebre Delovski

The Odds

SFC 2.40
Draw 3.50
AUCF 2.90

ABC Radio Coverage - 891 & ABC Local Radio South Australia & Grandstand Digital Adelaide and Sydney & online

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #SYDvREDS

poulos the Reds certainly have two players with plenty of that.

Sydney's back four will need to make sure they don't leave to much space in behind because Adelaide have the players that can exploit it, especially with Dario Vidosic and Marcelo Carrusca pulling the strings in midfield.

Adelaide: After a few weeks of controversy and upheaval, the Reds showed there is still plenty of fight in the side with their impressive win over the Victory last weekend. They played the entire match with plenty of commitment, enthusiasm and passion in front of their home fans.

The key for new boss Michael Valkanis will be getting his side to

replicate that again on the road this weekend.

The Gamebreaker

Alessandro Del Piero: Del Piero's strike in last week's win over Brisbane saw the Italian become the first Sydney FC player ever to score more than 10 goals in a season. And there's nothing to suggest the 38-year-old is done yet.

The Sky Blues' finals hopes rest very much on Del Piero's shoulders and he is continuing to deliver. He'll need to be at his clinical and creative best though against the Reds. Sydney fans are sweating on Del Piero re-signing with the club with a decision expected before the end of the month.

Adelaide may have had the wood

over the Sky Blues this season but there's no doubting Sydney are a much stronger proposition right now. They are extremely fit, playing with more belief and most importantly winning games.

The Reds will be buoyed by their win over the Victory last weekend and the absence of Emerton and Abbas certainly helps their cause. But Sydney have come to enjoy playing in front of their home fans again and with a chance to potentially put some breathing space between themselves and the chasing pack, the Sky Blues should edge this one.

**Kiss of Death
AUCF 1-2 Victory**



Adelaide Utd Line Up

- Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)
- Osama Malik
- Nigel Boogaard
- Jon McKain
- Iain Fyfe
- Marcelo Carrusca
- Dario Vidosic
- Antony Golec
- Cameron Watson
- Daniel Bowles
- Iain Ramsay
- Fabian Barbiero
- Jake Barker-Daish
- Paul Izzo (gk)
- Jeronimo Neumann
- Evan Kostopoulos
- Tomi Juric
- (Two to be omitted)

Ins: Nigel Boogaard (returns from suspension), Fabian Barbiero (promoted), Jake Barker-Daish (promoted), Paul Izzo (gk) (promoted), Tomi Juric (new signing)

Outs: Cassio (suspended – 1 match), Awer Mabil (returns to NYL), John Hall (gk) (returns to NYL)

Unavailable: Bruce Djite (groin – 1 week), Fabio Ferreira (groin – 4 weeks)



THE FUTURE OF FOOTBALL

| High Performance | Player Development |

| Coach Development | Events | Tours | Programs |



Call: 1300 412 990



Visit: www.fc11.com.au



Email: info@fc11.com.au



Victory Line Up

1. Tando Velaphi (GK)
2. Matthew Foschini
5. Mark Milligan
6. Leigh Broxham
8. Jonathan Bru
9. Marcos Flores
11. Marco Rojas
13. Diogo Ferreira
14. Billy Celeski
17. Jimmy Jeggo
18. Francesco Stella
22. Jesse Makarounas
23. Adrian Leijer
26. Andrew Nabbout
31. Scott Galloway
32. Connor Pain
33. Daniel Mullen
39. Nathan Coe (GK)
(Three to be omitted)

Ins: 2. Matthew Foschini, 26. Andrew Nabbout, 17. Jimmy Jeggo (all promoted), 5. Mark Milligan (returns from international duty), 33. Daniel Mullen (new signing)

Outs: 10. Archie Thompson (injured), Adama Traore (suspended)

Unavailable: 7. Gui Finkler (knee) 24. Nick Ansell (groin)

Melb Victory v West Syd Wanderers

By Andrew Bishara

When it rains, it pours. And that's how it's been for the Melbourne Victory and their playing roster. Last week against Adelaide United, the Victory had already lost a handful of players (injuries, suspensions and international call ups), before striker Archie Thompson got injured and Adama Traore was sent-off.

As such, Ange Postecoglou is rushing in their new signing, Daniel Mullen in this week's clash with the Western Sydney Wanderers. Mullen, a former Adelaide United player, has recently joined the Melbourne club on loan for the rest of the season from Chinese Super League club Dalian Aerbin, with rumours the Victory want to extend his contract.

The decision to bring in the defender was based on promising defender Nick Ansell, tearing a groin muscle and could be out for up to 6-8 weeks and possibly the rest of the season.

Postecoglou admitted he was confident the 23 year old would be ready for the challenge ahead.

"We have no doubt he'll be able to make an impact for us this season and potentially could remain with the club beyond finals," said the Victory coach. "Daniel's arrival provides a bit more defensive depth and cover."

The 1-0 loss to Adelaide was a game that Postecoglous hailed as "disruptive" due to the Reds' physical

ABC Radio Coverage - 774 & ABC Local Radio Victoria & Grandstand Digital Sydney & online

Referee: Peter Green

Wanderers seeking Victory in Melbourne

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MVvWSW

cal approach. However, he was pleased with the effort from his undermanned team.

"I'm pretty proud of the boys, they put in a really decent shift," Postecoglou said. "I was really pleased with the composure our players showed in trying to stick to what we want to do. But we couldn't win so with that in mind you just dust yourself off and move onto the next challenge."

And that next challenge is the form side of the competition. After five straight wins in a row, the Western Sydney Wanderers, in their first season, are sitting second.

There is no shortage of praise that can be lavished upon Tony Pop-

ovic's men. Defensively, they've been as good as the Mariners (17 goals conceded, compared to the Mariners' 14), but it's been their attacking display that has finally clicked.

Starting the season, the Wanderers struggled to score goals, however, Popovic has stuck to his tactics, style and promise that the Wanderers will finally tick all the boxes in the goal-scoring department.

The impressive form of Mark Bridge and Youssouf Hersi has been the main reason for this run, as well as the consistent contribution from marquee signing Shinji Ono.

After leaping into second place,

following their rather easy 2-1 win over the Newcastle Jets, the Wanderers will be looking to stay there and hopefully break off from the chasing pack of the Victory and Adelaide United. This will be game to do it in.

The Wanderers are in hot form at the moment and the Victory lacking numbers, they could snatch the points in their first visit to Melbourne. However, the Victory are known to relish being under the pump. An entertaining and exciting draw is the most likely outcome.

**Kiss of Death
Victory 2-1 Wanderers**



Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (GK)
2. Shannon Cole
3. Adam D'Apuzzo
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Jerome Polenz
7. Labinot Haliti
8. Mateo Poljak
9. Dino Kresinger
10. Aaron Mooy
11. Tarek Elrich
13. Joey Gibbs
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
15. Reece Caira
16. Rocky Visconte
17. Youssouf Hersi
18. Iacopo La Rocca
19. Mark Bridge
20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)
21. Shinji Ono
23. Jason Trifiro (Six to be omitted)

Ins: 15. Reece Caira, 11. Tarek Elrich, 13. Joey Gibbs, 16. Rocky Visconte (all promoted), 5. Michael Beauchamp (returns from injury)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 12. Tahj Minniecon (foot season)



Glory Line Up

1. Danny Vukovic (gk)
2. Jack Clisby
5. Steve Pantelidis
6. Nick Ward
8. Dean Heffernan
9. Shane Smeltz
10. Liam Miller
11. Adrian Zahra
12. Ryo Nagai
13. Travis Dodd
14. Steven McGarry
15. Brandon O'Neill
17. Chris Harold
18. Matias CORDOBA
19. Josh Risdon
21. Scott Jamison
22. Ndumba Makeche
23. Michael Thwaite
24. Storm Roux
30. Lewis Italiano (gk)
(Five to be omitted)

Ins: 11. Adrian Zahra, 15. Brandon O'Neill, 22. Ndumba Makeche, 24. Storm Roux (all promoted), 21. Scott Jamison (returns from injury - bone bruising)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 7. Jacob Burns (back - TBA)

Perth Glory v Central Coast Mariners

By FFA

Newly appointed interim head coach Alistair Edwards will face the toughest task in the A-League on Saturday when he will lead Perth Glory against table-toppers Central Coast Mariners. In his first game in charge since taking over from Ian Ferguson, who was sacked on Monday, Edwards will attempt to end Glory's five-match losing streak.

The match at nib Stadium will see the league's bottom club host the league-leaders, with Central Coast heading to Perth without a loss in seven games. The Mariners smashed five goals past Wellington Phoenix last week and could be primed for another big victory against a team they have a good record against.

Central Coast have defeated Glory 15 times in 24 A-League matches between the two clubs, while the Mariners have also won two of their past three games in Perth.

With young strikers Bernie Ibini and Mitchell Duke having scored five goals between them in the past three matches, Central Coast head to Western Australia suddenly much more versatile up front. The Mariners had otherwise relied on Daniel McBreen for goals this season.

Central Coast will be a daunting opponent for Glory and their new manager Edwards. Perth have not won in 2013, having last tasted victory eight matches ago, while they have also failed to score in their past four fixtures.

Edwards may turn to Matias Cordoba, who made his debut off the bench in last week's 2-0 loss to Melbourne Heart, to provide some spark in the forward third, although the Argentine attacking midfielder is reportedly still short of match fitness.

The Big Issue

Glory: Perth may not have won in eight matches but it is not because of an incon-



Referee: Jarred Gillett

Mariners Head to the Wild West

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #PGvCCM

sistent starting line-up. During that winless run, Ferguson included nine players in his starting eleven at least six times. Will Edwards take the opportunity to give Glory's starting line-up a much-needed shake up?

Perth have copped plenty of criticism for not giving local youth a chance. It could be that if the ex-Glory player gives the likes of Ndumba Makeche and Brandon O'Neill a start alongside fellow Western Australian youngsters Jack Clisby and Chris Harold, the men in purple may just find the spark they need.

Mariners: Graham Arnold used the 10 goals his team have scored in their past three games to emphasise they are not in a post-Tom Rogic slump after Central Coast's demolition of Wellington last Friday.

While Arnold's comment is fair enough, three draws in five fixtures had allowed the chasing pack to close in on the Mari-

ners. The question is; can Central Coast use last week's big win as the catalyst for an end-of-season run?

Arnold's men are four points ahead of Western Sydney Wanderers with Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United also within striking distance. To avoid another season of missed opportunities, the Mariners must complete the final eight rounds on an emphatic note.

Gamebreaker
Bernie Ibini: Fresh from his trial with Club Brugge in Belgium, Ibini-Isei scored twice for Central Coast last week. The 20-year-old attacker has speed to burn and will do his hopes of playing in Europe no harm if he can go on a scoring run to end the A-League season.

Perth have a terrible record against the Mariners with just five wins against the Gosford-based club including last season's penalty shootout triumph in the preliminary final. Central Coast have

won six of the past nine against Glory and with the men in purple slumped at the bottom of the A-League ladder, Arnold's side should have few concerns about the trip to nib Stadium.

Despite losing Rogic to Celtic in the January transfer window, the Mariners are still clearly the best team in the competition. With the best defensive and goal-scoring record this season, Central Coast are simply a top-quality unit all across the park.

By contrast, Perth are averaging less than a goal a game this season and have hit the back of the net just four times in their past seven fixtures. Edwards needs to start praying for a miracle if he is to win his first match as a senior head coach.

**Kiss of Death
Glory 1-2 Mariners**

The Odds

Glory 3.50
Draw 3.65
Mariners 2.10

ABC Radio Coverage - Updates only



Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
2. Daniel McBreen
3. Joshua Rose
4. Pedj Bojic
5. Zachary Anderson
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
7. John Hutchinson (c)
9. Bernie Ibini
14. Michael McGlinchey
16. Trent Sainsbury
17. Anthony Caceres
18. Nick Montgomery
19. Mitchell Duke
20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
21. Mile Sterjovski
29. Nick Fitzgerald (One to be omitted)

In: 17. Anthony Caceres (Promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: 10. Adriano Pellegri (Suspended - 1 week), 11. Oliver Bozanic (Shoulder - 1 week), 23. Adam Kwasnik (Knee - Season)



Saturday, February 16
Kick-off 7:45pm
AAMI Park

ticketek.com.au or call 132 849



Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (gk)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Murodocca
9. Stef Nijland
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
12. Julius Doe
13. Jade North
14. Steven Lustica
16. DO Dong-Hyun
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (gk)
21. James Meyer
22. Thomas Broich (c)
25. George Lambadaridis
26. Corey Brown
(Five to be omitted)

Ins: 4. Matt Jurman (returns from suspension), 8. Massimo Murodocca (returns from injury), 10. Henrique (returns from injury), 12. Julius Doe (promoted), 16. DO Dong-Hyun (promoted), 21. James Meyer (promoted), 26. Corey Brown (promoted)

Outs: 5. Ivan Franjic

Unavailable: 2. Matt Smith (hip – season)

Brisbane Roar v Wellington Phoenix

By Jarrod Ellis

Brisbane will be aiming to finish off a busy period for the club with a win over Wellington Phoenix on Sunday. The match will be Brisbane's third in a space of eight days, having already faced off against Sydney FC and Indonesia's Buriram United.

Having been aware of the fixture build-up since mid-December the club has planned accordingly in an effort to minimise player fatigue. The entire Brisbane contingent flew out of Sydney to Thailand on Monday for their Asian Champions League Qualifier and should return home on Thursday.

That foresight for preparation could well prove crucial if the Roar is to get a good result on Sunday after what was a poor showing for much of the squad in their 2-1 loss to Sydney in their last A-League outing.

Thomas Broich, Mitch Nichols, Luke Brattan and Ivan Franjic in particular will all need to put in much improved performances against Phoenix if Brisbane is serious about their finals ambitions.

Poor performances and injuries to key players have blighted Brisbane's season to date and their hopes for both this weekend and the remainder of the season

Referee: Alan Milliner



Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #ROARvNIX

The Odds

Roar 1.60
Draw 4.10
Phoenix 6.00

Busy Week for Brisbane

ABC Radio Coverage -
612 & ABC Local Radio
Queensland & Radio Sport
NZ, Grandstand Digital
Brisbane& online



Phoenix Line Up

Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
4. Isaka Cernak
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
10. Stein Huysegems
12. Tyler Boyd
16. Louis Fenton
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
20. Glen Moss (GK)
21. Dani Sanchez
22. Andrew Durante (C)
23. Corey Gameiro

Ins: 7. Leo Bertos (returns from injury), 18. Ben Sigmund (returns from suspension), 23. Corey Gameiro (new signing)

Outs: 11. Jeremy Brockie (suspended)

Unavailable: Nil

Kiss of Death
Roar 1-1Phoenix

Hyundai Goal for Grassroots

Congratulations to Port Adelaide Lions Soccer Club for being selected as the Hyundai Goals For Grassroots junior club for Round 20. By virtue of Adelaide United scoring 1 goal this round, the club received a \$2000 grant courtesy of Hyundai.

To nominate your club visit www.goalsforgrassroots.com.au

Fans Forums in February

Football Federation Australia (FFA) have added two more dates to the Australian Football Fan Forums in Melbourne on 19 February and Western Sydney on 20 February. FFA CEO David Gallop and Head of Hyundai A-League Damien de Bohun will be joined by special guests to discuss a range of topics including the A-League All Stars, FFA Cup, grassroots football and the Hyundai A-League, Westfield W-

Inner Sydney
Tuesday 12 February, 2013
7:30-9:30pm
Sports Theatre, The Star
Inner Sydney Fan Forum Panel
FFA CEO David Gallop
Head of Hyundai A-League Damien de Bohun
FOX SPORTS pundit and Former Socceroo Mark Bosnich

Melbourne
Tuesday 19 February, 2013
7:30-9:30pm
Olympic Room, AAMI Park
Melbourne Fan Forum Panel
FFA CEO David Gallop
Head of Hyundai A-League Damien de Bohun
Former Socceroo Steve Horvat

League and National Youth League competitions.

Australian Football Fan Forums will give all fans of the game a chance to have their opinions heard and questions answered.

For fans unable to attend, you can join the conversation on Twitter and ask your questions via #FFAforums – with questions taken from Twitter throughout each forum.

Western Sydney
Wednesday 20 February, 2013
7:30-9:30pm
University of Western Sydney, Parramatta
Building EA, room G.18
Western Sydney Fan Forum Panel
FFA CEO David Gallop
Head of Hyundai A-League Damien de Bohun
Special Guest TBC



Premier Leagues take centre stage

A-League Rewind



By Robert Di Fabio

Football Federation Australia has unveiled its revamped version of the state-based premier leagues, with the announcement of the National Premier Leagues (NPL).

While each state federation will run its own competition from March to September, the season will culminate with a nationwide play-off between the winners of each federation, resulting in a national champion for Australia's second-tier league.

The newly implemented National Competitions Review (NCR) has brought about a restructure of the state leagues, including the pyramid of divisions below the elite competitions. The NPL will see 70 clubs across Queensland, NSW, ACT, South Australia and Tasmania follow the recommendations of the NCR this year.

Next year, Victoria, Western Australia and Northern NSW will follow suite, joining the NCR structure.

FFA CEO David Gallop believes

the NPL structure will benefit football's development from the grassroots, paving the way for a very bright future for football in Australia.

For clubs like the rebranded Northern Fury FC – who was discarded by FFA after only two seasons in the A-League – it will give them a second-lease on life. With an eye on returning to Australia's premiere football competition in the coming years, it gives Fury an opportunity to illustrate its credentials as a community football club, forging relationships with the near-by residents and most importantly, offering them a team to support again in their local competition.

According to FFA, any thoughts of expansion have been put on standby for the short-term future – an understandable notion given its recent failed experiments with Gold Coast United, North Queensland Fury, and arguably Melbourne Heart, given its consistent inability to garner five-figure crowds.

The NPL appears to be a blueprint for a nationwide cup competition. With gossip continuing to mount amongst fans of the game, Mr Gallop stated that a proposed FFA Cup competition will not come to fruition, at least until 2015.

"I think we are all committed to an FFA Cup coming into fruition but we need to make sure the A-League is bedded down before we embark on such a big venture," Gallop said.

"But there is an appetite to do it and there's already people at the FFA working on it."

While it may sound like the never ending story, the NPL could very well be the catalyst for an FFA Cup in the not too distant future. A possible structure, to make the proposed competition viable is to have the A-League clubs enter the cup at the last-32 stage – with local clubs playing a cup tournament format within their local federation, before allocating a set amount of teams to qualify for the national stage of the cup competition.

Therefore, the remaining 22 spots could be filled by teams from the state federations. An impediment is of course finances, however with the new media deal forthcoming next season; it will certainly aid clubs in this respect. From a commercial perspective, let's hope sponsors will be keen to get on board, as well as broadcasters Fox Sports and SBS. It's certainly an exciting time for the game's hierarchy, from the grassroots all the way through to the A-League.

On first-look, there can be many positives drawn from the NPL model; however one area is seemingly unclear – the Player Points System. The PPS, in broader teams, is a salary cap for all clubs in the NPL. Each player begins at a base of 10 points, with players over the age of 25 incurring an additional point each year thereafter. There are also other aspects, like an additional 10 points for a visa

player and so on.

In theory, the system sounds enticing. Although, in reality it's ostensibly a youth league in disguise. As many seasoned veterans will tell you, players will learn more from their more experienced colleagues – and opposition – on the pitch, guiding them with different aspects of the game. There needs to be a balance of young and old; this will accelerate players' development, as opposed to playing with a glut of inexperienced players, who may be forced into the first team at a premature age.

When we dissect this system in finer detail, it's absurd for a goalkeeper, who is habitually in their prime in their late 20's, to be punished by this system.

Encouraging youth development should always be high on the agenda, although there's no evidence to suggest a PPS will be beneficial to the NPL's progress. If it were altered to say, 30 years of age, it would likely have a more desired effect.

Nonetheless, it's an exciting time for the future of Australian football. The NPL project is crucial to the development of our future stars. Off the pitch, hopefully it encourages some A-League fans to follow the progress of local clubs during the extended winter off-season.

Follow Robert on Twitter @RobertDiFabio



BLOCKBUSTER 4 GAME PACK!

Final 4 Home Games of Regular Season

www.sydneyfc.com/membership

ADULT PACKS
FROM \$90
INC FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT + MORE

FREE PUBLIC
TRANSPORT
INCLUDED IN BLOCKBUSTER 4 GAME PACK





PHOTO & GRAPHICS: ANITA MILAS

A R C H I E T H O M P S O N

10

Archie Thompson

A Glimpse of Things to Come

By Alvaro Rodriguez

Apart from the Central Coast Mariners' dominance of the current Hyundai A-League season, there has been another football revolution taking place out Gosford way; one that should by rights earn a distinct place in the annals of Australia's footballing development. And no, I don't mean the Mariners' much-touted academy/'Centre of Excellence' whose construction should soon be underway.

I refer to the International Football School (IFS), a football-specialist private school which opened its doors on January 28th to an initial intake of 75 aspiring male and female juniors, but aims to accommodate up to 350 pupils from Years 5 to 10 for the Mount Penang campus. Although private football academies are of course nothing new in Australia, the IFS is being touted as a national first; a full-time curriculum combining studies with football. Modelling itself on the schools/football academies of Europe, IFS founder and CEO Paul Chapman leaves no-one in doubt of the project's ambition with his firm assertion that "If you're not interested in football you don't come to my school, basically". Furthermore he has expressed a desire for IFS to establish formal links with the Mariners, whose presence in the region he sees as 'a huge draw-card'. Most importantly as far as the FFA is concerned, IFS pledges to adhere to the National Curriculum established by FFA Technical Director Han Berger - a welcome



The IFS team pictured on their first day of school.

relief from the national body's usual dealings with clandestine 'elite' academies notorious for exorbitant registration fees and often at-best-rudimentary tactical/technical emphasis. As this means IFS and the national body will be on the same page, the school should be able to count on FFA support in future.

Whilst this is watershed news for junior development in Australian football, the fact remains that this is just ONE full-time football school educating its pupils in the technical verses of the game as opposed to rudimentary, antiquating methodologies or atypical junior-clinic content. Ideally there should be one in every state and territory, as quite plainly one simply will not do in the long run if Australian football is serious about stepping

up to hitherto-unreached levels on the pitch. This also ties in with another widely-held view that all A-League clubs should establish their own individual youth academies (whatever degree of cooperation with state/national bodies to be discretionary), with some calling for this to be a concrete requirement by decade's end.

It is and has always been plain to see that Australian footballers are as a rule found sorely wanting in the level of tactical/technical nous and proficiency that is so readily associated with European and South American players, let alone their best. Time and again there has been deliberation as to how crucial this is for our footballing growth and so on. More often than not when this discussion comes up, I readily hear as-

sertions that it all comes down to the fact we as a footballing nation have never had - and in all likelihood never will - first dibs on Australia's natural-born athletic/sporting talent; basically if you are to take it at face value, Billy Slater, Bernard Tomic or Gary Ablett Jr would have become as good as Cristiano Ronaldo and Messi had they fallen for the round ball in childhood as opposed to the games they've made their names in.

No offence, so I'll refrain from the old parlance français and instead simply say it's nothing but a load of codswallop. Football is first and foremost a game of skill and science, grace and brains over brawn for brawn's sake - put simply, if one wants to be anywhere near the level of a Messi or C.Ronaldo, let

alone the immortals of years past like Pele, Maradona and Zidane in more recent times, an aspiring 7-8 year-old junior with sky-limit dreams simply does not undergo a crash-course in running fast all day, be it laps, clearing hurdles or chasing after a ball let alone any kind of physical-battery clearly inadequate and potentially harmful health-wise for such young bodies. As underlined in the National Curriculum, this age bracket is the 'Discovery Phase' of youth-development where the aim is not to win but to learn the rudiments in a non-competitive, fun and friendly environment ie. one that should engender a lifelong love of the game in the budding junior.

Nonetheless, the small-sided (usually Five-a-Side) games espoused by the Curriculum at

this age subliminally instill in the junior a latent tactical awareness whilst simultaneously honing their technical basics - maintenance of ball-possession and passing in particular. As one can imagine, a private football-school that endeavours to impart this onto its pupils will undoubtedly see heartening if not outright-satisfactory results down the track.

My hope is that others follow the lead of the IFS and provide an optimum-learning/development environment for Australia's future stars in the next few years - some may argue there is already something of a proliferation of high-performance youth development initiatives in Oz football such as NSW's Project 22 and the FFA Curriculum's 'Skillaroos' program with much the same base-objectives as IFS. Basically it would be quite something for this project underway on the Central Coast to prove a catalyst for accelerated growth in the field of Australian football's youth-development, or even to compliment the already-existing initiatives because it would if nothing else show that this is now an area of concern to Australian football's future that simply will never again go under-resourced and unnoticed.

Put simply, if the future of Australian football is indeed as bright as we envision it, in many ways it will begin with the likes of the IFS setting and raising the bar for future generations of Australian football talent.

For more information about the International Football School, visit <http://www.internationalfootballschool.com/>

Nut-Meg Dept.

www.goalweekly.com

goal! weekly

Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES



By Mark Boric

In light of recent incidents at A-League games, I contacted Mirko Ozhulovic, the self-confessed leader of the North Clayton Firm, to gain insight into the murky world of football hooliganism. **So Mirko, you first gained some notoriety when you joined the Millwall Independent Supporter's Association internet forum back in July of 2004 I believe.** Yeah, I started a topic called "Do Hooligans post here?" hoping to get in touch with some of the Bushwackers to see if they'd let me join them.

How did that work out? Not very good. I'd never seen so much use of the tosser emoticon before. They seemed very racist against Australians and were pretty ignorant. Also, I was a little bit wet behind the ears myself. It's a

bit like the movie Fight Club, one of the rules is you shouldn't talk about certain things where the filth like the Old Bill can make observations.

So you had no success in joining an English firm?

Nah, they were too busy slagging off their chairman and arguing that top players were reluctant to sign with the club because of the reputation and stigma of the hooligan element. They didn't appreciate my suggestion they should bash their chairman instead of moaning about him.

I'm not sure how assaulting a club chairman would help their cause?

You what? You're as thick as they were. You beat some sense into him, that's how it helps. Let him know you want him to sign some players in a manner he won't forget. And if he can't stand the heat, he should get out of the kitchen.

It's a very radical proposal. If they had followed through on it, they wouldn't have ended up in League One. Their forum is gone as well, those losers probably ditched the club after relegation.

So what happened next? Wouldn't you and the Old Bill like to know? Is this some kind of entrapment?

No. Nothing happened. The A-League started and some flares may have been thrown from the upper decks



The Football Factory pictured on their first day of school....

of Etihad Stadium, but I know nothing about that, nudge nudge, wink wink, say no more.

So you had something to do with that?

Did I not just specify "say no more"?

Hooliganism hasn't really been an issue in the A-League though?

Do the Hatamoto guys at the games get this publication?

I'm not sure.

Can't take a chance. Nothing has happened to the inbreds of Adelaide and the scum of Sydney that anyone should be concerned about.

So what have you made of this A-League season?

It's been the best season ever. The Wanderers have come in looking

to knock the top boys from Victory off their perch, literally! The Sydney FC lads have had to play third fiddle, but they got some confidence against the Heart crew. I call the Heart mob the Bondage Boys, because they are everybody's whipping boys. They've have been unable to match it with any human opponents, but showed they can give an inanimate object a decent thrashing with their seat-breaking display at Etihad.

So the action is confined to Melbourne and Sydney?

Nah, you can find something tasty in Adelaide if you are looking, and I ain't talking about My Kitchen Rules.

How about New Zealand?

Too far to go to for a decent rumble. Be interesting to see how

they'd go but, especially if you didn't cook the man some eggs.

So what influences these fans?

Most are inspired by the casual and tifo scene in Europe, and films like The Football Factory and Green Street Hooligans. The themes of them movies have struck a chord with the disaffected youth of Australia.

The theme of Green Street Hooligans is that though hooliganism may provide some excitement and a sense of brotherhood to those involved it is ultimately pointless and the violence can destroy lives.

You what? The theme is nothing is more important that fighting for your team and mates. You can't bottle it, or you will end up like The Major. Better to die a hero

like Pete, than to turn your back on your firm like The Major and marry some idiot who thinks it is okay to bring a toddler to a serious ruck.

Okay.

There's not enough people in the game willing to roll up their sleeves and fight for what they believe in! We've got a World Cup around the corner, and the chance to make our mark in Brazil. It's time the Green and Gold Army became a real army, not just a variation of those Fanatics flogs. We need to get toolled up, the FFA should be helping the boys out in that regard. Get a some baseball bats over there, and give it some Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! whack! whack! whack!

Thanks for your time Mirko.

But I haven't finished...

AGAINST ALL ODDS

A-League Champion 2012/13

Central Coast Mariners	3.00
Melbourne Victory	4.00
West Sydney Wanderers	4.33
Adelaide United	7.00
Sydney FC	15.00
Brisbane Roar	15.00
Melbourne Heart	23.00
Perth Glory	26.00
Newcastle Jets	26.00
Wellington Phoenix	51.00

GET CONNECTED TO MELBOURNE VICTORY!



facebook.com/gomvfc



twitter.com/gomvfc



youtube.com/gomvfc



melbournevictory.com.au

Stats By Team 2012/13 (Total)

SPORTSDATA PTY LTD
Official Statisticians for Hyundai A-League

GOALS REPORT 2012/13

Goals Scored	Total Shots	Shots ON Target	Shot ON %	Goals Conceded
Mariners 36	Wanderers 315	Roar 119	Roar 46.7	Mariners 14
Victory 33	Roar 255	Wanderers 119	Sydney 46.1	Wanderers 14
Sydney 32	Mariners 254	Mariners 114	Mariners 44.9	Glory 22
Adelaide 31	Glory 252	Glory 104	Adelaide 42.6	Roar 24
Wanderers 28	Jets 251	Adelaide 103	Glory 41.3	Adelaide 25
Heart 26	Phoenix 246	Jets 102	Jets 40.6	Heart 26
Jets 24	Adelaide 242	Phoenix 96	Victory 40.3	Victory 26
Roar 24	Victory 238	Victory 96	Phoenix 39.0	Jets 32
Phoenix 22	Heart 229	Roar 119	Heart 38.9	Phoenix 37
Glory 18	Sydney 206	Wanderers 119	Wanderers 37.8	Sydney 39
Shots Conceded	Effective Tackles	Tackling Efficiency %	Fouls Won	Fouls Conceded
Sydney 305	Phoenix 530	Glory 79.1	Victory 319	Sydney 349
Heart 295	Adelaide 508	Wanderers 78.0	Mariners 299	Wanderers 316
Adelaide 270	Roar 508	Phoenix 77.9	Roar 292	Heart 307
Victory 249	Glory 492	Jets 77.6	Adelaide 290	Victory 294
Phoenix 241	Heart 490	Heart 77.2	Glory 283	Jets 278
Roar 226	Wanderers 486	Roar 76.3	Sydney 283	Glory 276
Glory 215	Sydney 457	Mariners 75.9	Heart 267	Phoenix 264
Wanderers 214	Jets 456	Sydney 75.7	Jets 260	Adelaide 251
Jets 208	Victory 449	Victory 72.5	Phoenix 245	Roar 240
Mariners 163	Mariners 362	Adelaide 72.1	Wanderers 244	Mariners 212
Completed Passes	Passing Efficiency %	Offsides Won	Offsides Conceded	Total Cards (Y-R)
Roar 8764	Roar 84.9	Jets 71	Victory 69	Sydney 59-4
Victory 7568	Victory 83.3	Adelaide 69	Glory 66	Victory 55-3
Mariners 6883	Mariners 82.5	Roar 68	Phoenix 61	Jets 51-4
Adelaide 6468	Adelaide 82.5	Victory 63	Sydney 59	Heart 52-2
Glory 6218	Glory 80.4	Mariners 53	Mariners 57	Glory 50-3
Sydney 5645	Sydney 78.5	Sydney 51	Roar 52	Wanderers 47-3
Jets 5641	Jets 78.5	Phoenix 44	Adelaide 49	Adelaide 46-0
Heart 5466	Heart 77.7	Glory 39	Heart 48	Mariners 42-3
Phoenix 5120	Phoenix 76.9	Heart 39	Wanderers 44	Roar 42-1
Wanderers 4995	Wanderers 76.2	Wanderers 36	Jets 28	Phoenix 39-3

Player Stat Leaders 2012/13

Goals	Goal Assists	Shots ON Target	Total Shots	Completed Crosses
D McBreen 15	T Broich 8	A Del Piero 31	M Bridge 63	S Jamieson 29
M Rojas 12	Y Hersi 7	D McBreen 31	D McBreen 61	T Broich 28
B Berisha 11	M Carrusca 6	M Rojas 30	J Brockie 56	T Lochhead 23
J Brockie 11	G Finkler 6	B Berisha 28	M Rojas 55	S Stefanutto 22
A Del Piero 11	M Rojas 6	M Bridge 28	A Del Piero 53	Y Hersi 21
M Bridge 8	D Vidolic 6	R Griffiths 28	R Griffiths 50	S Neville 20
R Griffiths 8	A Del Piero 5	D Vidolic 27	D Vidolic 50	L Bertos 19
E Heskey 8	P Ifill 5	J Brockie 26	J Neumann 43	P Bojic 19
Completed Passes	Pass Efficiency % (Min 475)	Effective Tackles	Tackle Effi. % (Min 55)	Offsides
E Paartalu 1019	J Hutchinson 90	M Muscat 93	P Gerhardt 93.2	J Brockie 32
J Hutchinson 964	M Smith 89.2	A Traore 81	T Lochhead 91.5	M Rojas 28
M Smith 953	M Murdocca 88.8	B Sigmund 78	B Sigmund 86.7	B Berisha 23
B Celeski 925	B Celeski 87.8	J Risdon 72	A Traore 84.4	S Smeltz 19
L Miller 803	I Fyfe 87.6	F Alves 63	B Halloran 82.5	A Thompson 19
T Sainsbury 794	J Hingert 87.5	Cassio 63	A Durante 82.3	Y Yau 15
I Franjic 768	S Pantelidis 87.4	J Polenz 62	F Alves 81.8	M McGlinchey 14
A Traore 764	I Franjic 87.3	L Miller 60	J Burns 81.4	B Mehmet 14
Fouls Won	Fouls Conceded	Keeper Clean Sheets	Keeper Saves	Yellow-Red Cards
A Del Piero 68	J Burns 46	A Covic 9	M Paston 61	A Abbas 8-0
T Broich 60	A D'Apuzzo 40	M Ryan 9	M Theo 60	B Berisha 7-0
M Rojas 46	R Grant 39	E Galekovic 7	A Covic 59	J Burns 7-0
M flores 45	E Heskey 38	M Birighitti 4	E Galekovic 58	P Gerhardt 7-0
B Halloran 45	M Muscat 38	N Coe 4	N Coe 54	J Mitchell 6-1
C Goodwin 43	A Abbas 35	M Paston 4	D Vukovic 53	P Bojic 6-0
D McBreen 42	B Sigmund 34	M Theo 4	V Jantjetovic 42	J Brockie 6-0
Cassio 39	R Zadkovich 34	D Vukovic 4	M Birighitti 41	B Celeski 6-0

Head to Head Record

	Overall Head-To-Head Record Played 17; Brisbane Roar FC 10, Wellington Phoenix FC 2, Drawn 5	
	Overall Head-To-Head Record Played 8; Newcastle Jets FC 3, Melbourne Heart FC 3, Drawn 2	
	Overall Head-To-Head Record Played 24; Perth Glory FC 3, Central Coast Mariners FC 15, Drawn 6	
	Overall Head-To-Head Record Played 25; Sydney FC 11, Adelaide United FC 11, Drawn 3	
	Overall Head-To-Head Record Played 2; Melbourne Victory FC 1, Western Sydney FC 1, Drawn 0	

Legrottaglie keen on A-League

Catania defender Nicola Legrottaglie has claimed he would love to play in the A-League alongside former team-mate Alessandro Del Piero.

Legrottaglie has revealed Australia 'fascinates' him and with his contract expiring in June he has made it clear, after 19 years in Italian football, he is interested in playing abroad if Catania do not offer him another deal.

The 36-year-old central defender played 147 games for Juventus between 2003 and 2011 and it seems one of the Turin club's favourite sons has inspired Legrottaglie to end his career in the A-League.

"It would be a pleasure to play with Alex Del Piero," Legrottaglie said in an interview with La Repubblica on Tuesday.

When Del Piero decided to sign

for Sydney FC after 19 seasons with Juventus, there was speculation over whether a successful time in Australia could lead to an influx of ex-Serie A pros in the A-League.

Having scored 11 goals for Sydney FC, the best single-season haul in the club's history, and with finals beckoning, Del Piero looks set to extend his time with the Sky Blues and it seems his success in the A-League is being noticed in his home country.

While Legrottaglie maintains he is happy with Catania, who sit eighth in Italy's Serie A, he claims Australia would be an attractive destination if the Sicilian club do not decide to give him a new contract.

"I haven't spoken to the club yet," Legrottaglie said.

"I am happy here and would never push to leave but if the club decides not to make me a



proposal, then I would evaluate others, even if they were abroad. "The idea of Australia fascinates me.

"Age does not matter, as I am in good shape and take it one year at a time."

Coming
Soon!!The Goal! Weekly Annual
AVAILABLE END OF APRIL 2013

Couch Potato

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



Tuesday 19th February
09:30 am Liverpool TV

Friday 22nd February
07:30 am Football: Liverpool TV



SBS ONE
Sunday February 17th
10:30 am Football Asia
11:00 am UEFA Champions League Magazine

Monday February 18th
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:00 pm The World Game

Wednesday February 20th
6:30 am UEFA Champions League: Arsenal v Bayern Munich - From Arsenal Stadium, London, England. Round of 16 **LIVE**

Thursday February 21st
6:30 am UEFA Champions League: AC Milan v Barcelona - Live from Stadio Giuseppe Meazza, Milan, Italy. Round of 16 **LIVE**

11:05 pm UEFA Champions League Hour

SBS TWO
Monday February 18th
9:30 pm The World Game

Wednesday February 20th
9:30 pm UEFA Champions League: Arsenal v Bayern Munich (Replay)

Thursday February 21st
8:30 pm UEFA Champions League Hour

Friday February 22nd
8:30 pm UEFA Europa League Highlights



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE **LIVE**
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

English Premier League

FA Cup Round 5 matches scheduled February 16-19.

WEEK 28
Sat Feb 23 Fulham v Stoke
11.38 pm Fox 1
Sun Feb 24 QPR v Manchester United
1.53 am Fox 1
Sun Feb 24 Arsenal v Aston Villa
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Feb 24 Norwich v Everton
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Feb 24 Reading v Wigan
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Feb 24 West Brom v Sunderland
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Mon Feb 25 Man City v Chelsea
12.15 am Fox 1
Mon Feb 25 Newcastle v Southampton
12.23 am Fox 3
Tue Feb 26 West Ham v Tottenham
6.53 am Fox 1

Hyundai A-League
All games **LIVE**

Fri Feb 15 Newcastle v Melb Heart
7.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Feb 16 Sydney FC v Adelaide Utd
5.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Feb 16 Melb Victory v Wanderers
7.45 pm Fox 1
Sat Feb 16 Perth Glory v Central Coast
9.45 pm Fox 1
Sun Feb 17 Brisbane v Wellington
5.00 pm Fox 1

FOX SPORTS FC
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 Lyon v Tottenham 4:50am **LIVE**
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 Liverpool v Zenit 6:55am **LIVE**
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 Chelsea v Sparta Prague 9:45am 1st Airing
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 2nd Leg Metalist v Newcastle 12:15pm 1st Airing
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 23 Preview Show 8:00pm 1st Airing

Round 21: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

Jets (8) Heart (0) Draw (0) - Sydney FC (1) Adelaide (7) Draw (0) - Victory (7) Wanderers (0) Draw (1) - Glory (8) Mariners (0) Draw (0) - Roar (3) Phoenix (2) Draw (3)

SANTO CILAURO **47**

Jets
Sydney
Victory
Draw
Roar

Last week: 4

CRAIG MACKENZIE **47**

Jets
Sydney
Draw
Mariners
Roar

Last week: 4

EDDIE KRNEVIC **42**

Jets
Sydney FC
Victory
Glory
Roar

Last week: 3

PETER KATHOLOS **41**

Jets
Sydney FC
Victory
Glory
Roar

Last week: 5

ROGER SLEEMAN **51**

Jets
Adelaide
Wanderers
Mariners
Roar

Last week: 3

ANDY HARPER **41**

Heart
Sydney
Victory
Perth
Brisbane

Last week: 3

JOHN DOYLE **42**

Jets
Sydney
Wanderers
Mariners
Roar

Last week: 3

KISS OF DEATH **49**

Jets
Sydney FC
Victory
Mariners
Draw

Last week: 3

Heart bolster squad with gun midfielder

Melbourne Heart FC has bolstered its squad in the form of former Feyenoord and Borussia Monchengladbach midfielder Marcel Meeuwis. The 32-year-old joins Heart for the remainder of the 2012-13 season and could be available to face the Newcastle Jets at Hunter Stadium this Friday evening, subject to an international clearance.

Meeuwis, who primarily operates as a defensive midfielder, has a formidable record in Europe, having played close to 300 games in the Dutch top flight with the likes of Feyenoord, as well as a stint in the Bundesliga with Borussia Monchengladbach in 2009 after a multi-million dollar transfer from Dutch side Roda JC.

"With the combined losses of Vince Grella, Aziz Behich and Michael Marone, we needed to add depth and quality to the squad and in Marcel we have certainly done that," General Manager, Football Operations, John Didulica said. "Marcel's pedigree will ensure we are well served across midfield and the options we have available across the line-up are multiplied. "Marcel will add significant tactical knowledge to the squad and bring significant industry and energy." Meeuwis arrived in Melbourne on Tuesday morning before training briefly with the Hyundai A-League squad at La Trobe University Sports Fields.



Melbourne Heart new signing Marcel Meeuwis at training during the week. PHOTO: JIM WEBSTER

MLS Senior Executive Russell Sargeant named new A-League GM

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has announced that Major League Soccer (MLS) Senior Executive Russell Sargeant will join the Hyundai A-League as General Manager, Operations.

Reporting to Head of Hyundai A-League Damien de Bohun, Sargeant will lead the

FFA League Operations team, managing Hyundai A-League competition administration and services.

Sargeant brings a wealth of experience to the role after holding key positions in MLS (2005-2013), San Jose Earthquakes (2003-2005) and international sports administration and marketing.

Currently a Senior Director with MLS and Soccer United Marketing, Sargeant will return to his home country Australia following a 12 year stint in the US working in professional sport.

"We welcome Russell to the team and look forward to taking advantage of his wealth of experience in sports marketing and administration with MLS," said FFA CEO David Gallop.

"FFA is in a phase of detailed implementation of its strategic plan for the A-League. The recruitment of an executive who has been successful in both implementing strategy and building football in a nation with similar characteristics as Australia is another forward step in our growth story."

Kathy Carter, President of Soccer United Marketing, MLS' commercial arm, attested to Sargeant's positive impact on the growth football.

"During more than a decade of commitment to MLS and our commercial arm Soccer United Marketing, Russell has

played an instrumental role in the growth of Major League Soccer and the sport of football in the United States and Canada," said Carter.

"His combination of vision, relationship management skills, and passion for our sport make Russell a valuable asset to any growing football property. While we are sorry to see him leave our organisation, I am confident that Russell will have an incredibly positive impact on the A-League and the growth of football in Australia."

Sargeant, who began his football journey as a junior within the Manly Warringah Football Association (NSW), thanked FFA for the opportunity to return to Australia to continue working in the sport closest to his heart.

"I'd like to thank David, Damien, and the entire management team at FFA for the opportunity to join the Hyundai A-League at such an exciting time in the league's development," said Sargeant.

"I look forward to working with that team, with all of the A-League clubs, and with the entire football community to ensure that the Hyundai A-League continues to play its critical role in establishing Australia as a world-class football nation."

Sargeant will commence his role as General Manager, Hyundai A-League Operations in March.

VOTING NOW OPEN for A-League All Stars Coach

The first stage of A-League All Stars voting has now opened.

Until Friday 22 February, fans will have their chance to vote for the Hyundai A-League coach that will lead the inaugural A-League All Stars team out against Manchester United on 20 July at ANZ Stadium.

All 10 current Hyundai A-League coaches can be voted on in the first stage of voting for the inaugural A-League All Stars match via www.footballaustralia.com.au/allstarscoach.

"This is the first chance fans have to put their mark on the All Stars team," said FFA CEO David Gallop.

"The All Stars concept is exciting, with fans being given genuine input into the selection process of both the coach and the players. The first ever All Stars match is sure to be a great spectacle and with fans being the frontline of the selection panel it will no doubt be a team that reso-

nates strongly with Hyundai A-League fans from all 10 Clubs."

Following the coach voting fans will have their chance to vote for the players they would most like to see face Manchester United from this season's Hyundai A-League competition.

To vote for the inaugural A-League All Stars Coach all you have to do is complete the following steps:

1. Submit your vote at www.footballaustralia.com.au/allstarscoach
2. You will receive an email with a link to activate your vote
3. Your vote will then be activated and counted

Coach voting for the A-League All Stars closes at 5pm (AEDT) Friday, 22 February.

DODGEBALL REVOLUTION
The Future of Melbourne Dodgeball

Join The Revolution
First Game Free!

Venues in Thomastown & Greensborough
Men's, Women & Mixed Competitions

www.facebook.com/DodgeballRevolution @Dodgeball_Rev

NO APOLOGIES
A FOOTBALL DOCO BY ASHLEY MORRISON

Recently voted by FourFourTwo UK as one of the top 5 football documentaries to see before you die! Order your copy today online at:

www.noapologiesrequired.com

FUTSALOZ STADIUM
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6PM TIL LATE!
407 VICTORIA STREET, BRUNSWICK



Join us on facebook
www.futsaloz.com.au
Tel: 1300 768 799
POSTER BY KUI MU



LEAGUE
PREMIERSHIP

NIKE V-LEAGUE FUTSAL PREMIERSHIP



LIVE IT, PLAY IT, LOVE IT!



Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

Goal Weekly is now into its eighth year of publication, carrying 'all the news that's fit to print' about the game in Australia and around the world. Among its many predecessors Soccer Action was the pre-eminent football weekly from its first issue in 1976 until its demise in 1987 at the hands of the bean counters at Fairfax, who published it. Soccer Action was spiky, informative, thorough and open to a range of contributors as well as its superb editorial team led by the peerless Laurie Schwab.

Below the masthead the first issue on 4 February 1976 listed the team who would provide copy for the paper. Tom Anderson, former player and then Daily Mirror columnist, Rale Rasic, coach of the 1974 Socceroos, Johnny Warren, Jack Reilly, Branko Buljevic, who played in Germany in the World Cup and Billy Vojtek, a surprise omission from that squad, plus top coach Tony Boggi and another coach heading for a fall, Brian Green, headed the list. Former Collingwood full forward Peter McKenna, who played soccer in his youth, humorist Knut Werner, pools expert Peter Sweeney, JUST and Australian star Frank Micic and a number of people who were to contribute columns in some of the many languages other than English for the migrant supporters of the game. Peter Georgiou, Jim Bakatsoulas, Alex Nikolic (the latter two assisting with printing) and later Manos Milios and Rocco di Zio joined in. Les Shorrocks was also included as a contributor on the Melbourne Metropolitan competition, but already he was nominated as the man who would stir the pot. Later still he was to make a major impression as a photographer, but he was also a fine journalist.

A couple of names missing from that stellar line-up who would have a huge influence on the paper were Kyle Patterson, now head of media at Football Federation Australia, and our own Craig MacKenzie, both of whom cut their journalistic teeth on Soccer Action.

The headline story was a plan for an inter-city tournament to precede the planned start of the National Soccer League in March 1977. At that stage the Victorian authorities were still opposed to the whole idea of the NSL, fearing that it would downgrade their own State League. It took a demarche by Tom Bailey of Mooroolbark to break the log-

Soccer Action's First Edition



Masthead of the first edition of Soccer Action with editor Laurie Schwab's starting fourteen, 4 February 1976. Source: Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.



Lead story from the first edition.

jam and get the Victorian clubs into the NSL. John Gardiner, star Victorian player and coach, was in the news with his threat to take George Cross to court over the contract he signed eight years ago. That form effectively tied a player to a club for life if the club chose to exercise its option to renew on the same terms as in a previous year, but the Eastham case in England had demolished the equivalent system there, which the courts found to be in restraint of trade. Even Soccer Action could not ignore clashes between what were described as Croatian and Yugoslav fans at a match the pre-

vious Saturday between the Victorian State team and the touring side Velez Mostar. The game had to be abandoned. The paper argued that Olympic Park authorities had to shoulder some of the blame for causing fans to queue for long periods in extremely hot conditions, which led to a forced entry by some of them and the breaking down of fences. George Wallace, Secretary of the Victorian Soccer Federation, said that 3,000 people got in free and the VSF had lost \$7,000 as a result. The forthcoming match between Australia and the tourists was to have the tightest security since the Springbok rugby union tour, when apartheid was the focus

of the mass protests which occurred. Billy Vojtek asserted there was nothing wrong with ethnic names and wanted the world cup of nations revived in Victoria. The Ampol Cup was underway when the paper appeared and match reports were included as Alexander and JUST topped their respective sections in Victoria. The Sydney Ampol Cup was also covered and there was a double-page spread on the top players and coaches of 1975 in Australia. Rale Rasic had a pungent critique of junior coaching, while Jack Reilly wanted a reduction of the number of teams in the various state leagues to improve the



Two of Sydney's "all-time" greats in action in last year's grand final, Atti Abonyi (left) and Jimmy Rooney, Apia, (right).

Atti Abonyi and Jimmy Rooney. Despite the claim that they were Sydney stars in 1975, they were Victorian through and through. From page 13.



Peter McKenna story from page 15.



Soccer Action founding editor, Laurie Schwab.

MELBOURNE SPORTS BOOKS

Mon-Fri: 9.30am-5pm Sat: 10am-12noon
51 Brunswick Road, East Brunswick, VIC 3057
Phone:- (03) 9662 1085
www.melbournesportsbooks.com.au
Email:- info@melbournesportsbooks.com.au
Contact:- Santo 0421 793 833

Have you discovered Mr Cleansheets yet?

If not, you're missing out on the greatest rollicking football romp since Bert Trautmann put his neck on the line for Man City in the 1956 Cup Final. Vicious hooligans, Irish mafia, nymphomaniac pop stars and shedloads of football.

Get your hard copy at any bookstore or buy online at www.mrcleansheets.com (ebook also available).





Title race wide open as Pascoe Vale drop points

There were goals aplenty in rounds 16 and 17 of the Nike V-League premiership. An twist in the title race with Pascoe Vale FC's lead cut to 3 points as they taste defeat at the hands of rivals Vic Vipers. Hume kept the pressure on Pascoe Vale with two convincing victories including a 36-1 defeat of Balwyn.

Round 16
Hume FC end Brighton's win streak

Hume FC kept the pressure on pac-setters Pascoe Vale with a convincing win over Brighton FC. Brighton's recent good form meant the early exchanges were intense, however Hume than dominated the bulk of possession and this lead to goals for the second place side.

Hume FC 8 (S. Cicek 2, C. Munoz, F. Bozdogan, V. Mazurskiy, A. Ramzy, D. Rafiti 2 OG def. **Brighton FC 1** (C. Safko)

Ashburton win against Essendon
Ashburton FC continued it recent good form with a dominant performance against FC Essendon. With 6 of its 10 players getting on the score sheet for Ashburton it was really a team effort as Essendon had no answers for Ashburton's combination play.

Ashburton FC 8 (M. Giotta 2, A. Areggin 2, M. Alghorabi, A. Farina, R. Armellini M. Rocca) def. **FC Essendon 1** (A. Osorio)

Pascoe Vale made to work against Moreland

Moreland FC pushed leaders all the way and unfortunately for them they came up a little short. Pascoe Vale's clinical finishing was the difference in the end as both teams created a lot of chances. Pascoe Vale continues to lead the competition by 6 points.

Pascoe Vale FC 5 (J. Portillo 2, E. Simsek, T. Umeda, S. Soufi) def. **Moreland FC 3** (O. Kose 2, T. Korkmaz)

Vipers charging up the Ladder

The Vic Vipers are been far from their best this year but against Metropolitan FC they proved they are still one of the favorites for the competition. Metropolitan FC had no real answers for the pace and enthusiasm of the young Vipers as they run out 5-3 victors.

Vic Vipers FC 5 (M. Avram 2, M. Pedic, A. Cooper, H. Tran) def. **Metropolitan FC 3** (A. Stevanovic 2, A. Redzepovic)

Fitzroy account for Brunswick

Fitzroy FC has taken the points over CF Brunswick in a match that both teams had opportunities to win. CF Brunswick lost player/coach Antonis Apostolakis to a red card for a nasty tackle early on and that looked impact on his side. Fitzroy scored at the right times to put the match out of reach.



Vadim Mazurskiy scores his 10th goal against FC Balwyn during round 17 action. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS



Ashburton FC star Lucas Kruehl celebrates his 4th goal against FC Prahran. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

Fitzroy FC 3 (A. Pedroni 2, K. Majoouri) def. **CF Brunswick 1** (J. Slovacek)

Prahran wins in high scoring affair

FC Prahran takes the win in a high scoring match against the struggling FC Balwyn. Balwyn started the game without a keeper and by the time they had one they were 11-3 down. The second half was again full of goals as Balwyn tried to come back but it was

to little too late as Prahran took the points 16-10.

FC Prahran 16 (A. Muktar 5, C. Mogoai 3, S. Rahim 3, J. Dawood 2, E. Benjamin, Sargon, M. McGough (OG)) def. **FC Balwyn 10** (M. McGough 6, J. Berrios 2, D. Mendez 2)

Round 17
Darby Delight for the Vipers

A much-needed 3 points for the Vipers has opened the title race wide open as Pascoe Vale suffer defeat. The Clasio

as its dubbed lived up to all the hype with both teams playing some great futsal keeping the crowd on the edge of their seats. It took a last minute Adam Cooper goal to break the 3-3 deadlock and give the Viper victory. The win for Vipers mean that Pascoe Vale's lead has been cut to 3 points from Hume FC.

Vic Vipers FC 4 (M. Pedic 2, Jas. Barrientos, A. Cooper) def. **Pascoe Vale FC 3** (S. Soufi, A. Caro, T. Umeda)

FC Essendon turn on style to be Fitzroy

FC Essendon with a classic over Fitzroy FC. Essendon started the stronger of the two sides and their 2 touch passing was undoing the Fitzroy defence at will. Fitzroy had no real answers but some poor defending from Essendon allowed Fitzroy a sniff of victory, but in the end Essendon held on to take the points.

FC Essendon 5 (A. Osorio 2, B. Vanega, A. Ahmed, G. Candelo) def. **Fitzroy FC 3** (A. Alicevic 3, V. Zoric)

Brunswick rally to defeat Metropolitan

CF Brunswick proved there is a lot of potential in this young side as they accounted for Metropolitan FC. Metropolitan started strongly racing to a 2 goals lead, however with Hat-tricks to Daniel Van Reyk and Duke Duva Brunswick ran over the top to take the points.

CF Brunswick 7 (D. Van Reyk 3, D. Duva 3, J. Slovacek) def. **Metropolitan FC 4** (D. Redzepovic 2, A. Stevanovic, A. Redzepovic)

Moreland win over Brighton

Four goals from Burukhan Koca helped guide Moreland FC to victory over Brighton FC. In a match with a number of highlights it was Moreland FC who looked the stronger. Brighton

always looked dangerous on the break but the Moreland defence proved to hard to continually break down.

Moreland FC 5 (B. Koca 4, T. Korkmaz) def. **Brighton FC 3** (N. Khoshaba 2, C. Safko)

Brazilian Lucas Krul steals the show against FC Prahran

In only his third match for Ashburton Lucas Krul has made a name for himself. The Brazilian was head and shoulders above everyone and his 6 goals ensured a happy ending for Ashburton FC. Ashburton ran rampant against FC Prahran and it seemed everything they tried turned to gold, as Prahran had no answers for the passing and movement of Ashburton.

Ashburton FC 11 (L. Krul 6, J. Afonseca 3, A. Farina, J. Dawoud (OG) def. **FC Prahran 4** (A. Muktar 3, C. Mogoai)

Hume break records against Balwyn

FC Balwyn's weekend went from bad to worse as they lost 16-10 on Friday they followed it up with a 36-1 loss to Hume FC. Hume was in control from the opening minute as Balwyn only produced 4 players for the match. Vadim Mazurskiy was the star of the show as his 12 goals breaks the scoring record for most goals in a V-League match.

Hume FC 36 (V. Mazurskiy 12, A. Ramzy 5, S. Cicek 4, M. Tankir 4, G. Harrison 4, R. Culculoglu 2, C. Cicekdag 2, M. Vragovski, C. Munoz, M. Parlak) def. **FC Balwyn 1** (D. Mendez)



FC Prahran's Ahmed Muktar scores against FC Balwyn in Round 16 Action. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

V-League Standings									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
1 Pascoe Vale FC	17	14	2	1	121	61	+60	44	
2 Hume FC	17	13	2	2	151	45	+106	41	
3 Vic Vipers FC	17	12	3	2	83	56	+27	39	
4 Metropolitan FC	17	11	0	6	120	82	+38	33	
5 Ashburton FC	17	10	2	5	81	49	+32	32	
6 Moreland FC	17	9	0	8	91	120	-29	27	
7 Fitzroy FC	17	8	1	8	71	70	+1	25	
8 CF Brunswick	17	6	0	11	70	85	-15	18	
9 FC Prahran	17	4	1	12	75	110	-35	13	
10 FC Essendon	17	4	0	13	54	116	-62	12	
11 FC Balwyn	17	3	1	13	76	151	-75	10	
12 Brighton FC	17	2	0	15	47	94	-47	6	

Round 17 Clashes	
Friday February 10	
• Hume FC 36-1 FC Balwyn	
• FC Essendon 5-4 Fitzroy FC	
• Moreland FC 5-3 Brighton FC	
• Metropolitan FC 4-7 CF Brunswick	
• Pascoe Vale FC 3-4 Vic Vipers FC	
• Ashburton FC 11-4 Prahran FC	

Round 18 Clashes	
Sunday February 17	
• 2:00 pm Moreland Fc VS Balwyn FC	
• 3:00 pm Ashburton FC VS Fitzroy FC	
• 4:00 pm CF Brunswick VS Pascoe Vale FC	
• 5:00pm FC Essendon VS Metropolitan	
• 6:00 pm Brighton FC VS Vic Vipers FC	
• 7:00pm FC Prahran VS Hume FC	

Top Goal Scorers	
1 Vadim Mazurskiy - Hume FC	40
2 Alija Redzepovic - Metropolitan FC	35
3 Burukhan Koca - Moreland FC	30
4 Juso Julardzija - Metropolitan FC	30
5 Sofiane Soufi - Pascoe Vale FC	28

The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday 6.30pm on C31 and C44Digital

FUTSAL OZ

Juniors
Men
Women
Mixed
Elite

FUTSAL OZ Store

-futsaloz.com.au -1300 788 799 -407 Victoria St, Brunswick Vic

Twitter Google+ Facebook RSS YouTube C31

Victory grabs outright leadership as Mariners stumble

By Daniel Quinn

The Melbourne Victory now the lead the National Youth League (NYL) by three points after their win over Adelaide as the Mariners lost to Perth. Meanwhile there were wins for the Heart and the Jets, plus much, much more in Round 16 of the NYL.

The Perth Glory kicked the round off with a shock by defeating the second-placed Central Coast Mariners 3-1 on Saturday at Tuggerah. Slobodan Vulin opened the scoring just after five minutes after some nice built up from Adrian Zahra.

Zahra then was at hand to double the lead after chipping substitute 'keeper Daniel Sadaka shortly after the break. Brad McDonald cut the deficit in half with a powerful driven effort on 70 minutes, before Ndumba Makeche sealed the victory and missed a late penalty.

The Melbourne Victory thrashed Adelaide United 6-0 at Frank Mitchell Park thanks to Chris Cristaldo's hat-trick. And it was Cristaldo who opened the scoring with a simple tap in from Andrew Nabbout's cutback, before John Buceto coolly finished past Reds 'keeper Paul Izzo.

Just before the break Cristaldo fired in his second past Izzo after the forward was found by Nabbout.

Seven minutes after the resumption Cristaldo completed his hat-trick simply nudging the ball in from yet another Nabbout cross.

Substitute Theo Markelis then added the icing on the cake with a late double, before Victory defender Sam Gallagher was given his second yellow card for



Wade Decker (Heart) seems more interested in appealing to the referee than getting set to pounce on a possible fumble by AIS keeper Lucas Spinella. Rocco Pizzata, on the other hand, is ready to mop up if necessary. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

dissent.

Sydney FC and Brisbane Roar fought out a tough 2-2 draw on Sunday at Allianz Stadium, where the action was left to the second-half.

Early in the second-half Roar 'keeper Fraser Chalmers made up for his foul in the box with a nice save to deny Jared Lum's penalty.

Just after the hour that penalty save proved to be vital as Dong Hyun Do headed in Kenneth Dougall's free kick.

Sydney though, fought back and snatched the lead through Tom Slater's great finish on 83 minutes and Mitch Mallia's thumping strike with a minute

left.

But seconds later Kwame Yeboah slotted in a late leveler to give Brisbane a share of the points.

The Melbourne Heart edged out the AIS 3-2 at Epping Stadium.

The Heart got off to a great start, as Josh Groenewald's powerful strike was blocked by AIS 'keeper Andre Jannese, before former AIS winger Ben Garuccio followed up with a drilled effort, on just five minutes.

On 23 minutes the Heart doubled their lead as Paul Retre found Evan Batsis, the former Bentleigh striker than rifled emphatically across the face of

Jannese and into the bottom corner.

Three minutes after the break the hosts grabbed their third as Groenewald was knocked over in the box by Jannese, before the utility stepped up and belted his penalty past Jannese.

Shortly later the Institute were given a penalty of their own as Retre fouled Marc Marino in the area. Marino, like Groenewald, converted the penalty he won after sending Heart 'keeper Alistair Bray the wrong way.

The Institute made the last moments tense, as Steve Kuzmanovski beat a couple defenders and drove his effort into the bottom corner past the

outraced hands of Bray with ten minutes left.

Also on Sunday, the Newcastle Jets smashed the Western Sydney Wanderers 4-0 thanks to Marko Jesic's hat-trick at Cook Park.

Jesic only took three minutes to get the scoring under with a nice finish through Wanderers 'keeper Jerrad Tyson, before Tyson failed to deal with a long ball allowing Jesic to tap into an open net ten minutes later.

Kale Bradbery added Newcastle's third three minutes after the resumption with a magnificent finish, before Jesic completed his treble with a lovely lob over the charging Tyson.

Round 16 Results

Newcastle Jets 4 (Marko Jesic 3, 13, 80, Kale Bradbery 48)
Western Sydney Wanderers 0

Melbourne Heart 3 (Garuccio 5, Batsis 23, Groenewald 48p)
Australian Institute of Sport 2 (Marino 56p, Kuzmanovski 80)

Sydney FC 2 (Slater 83, Mallia 89)
Brisbane Roar 2 (Do 61, Yeboah 90)

Adelaide United 0
Melbourne Victory 6 (Cristaldo 13, 39, 52, Buceto 16, Markelis 79, 87)

Perth Glory 3 (Slobodan Vulin 5, Adrian Zahra 54, Ndumba Makeche 84)
Central Coast Mariners 1 (Brad McDonald 70)

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Melbourne Victory	16	12	0	4	54	16	38
2 CC Mariners	16	11	0	5	34	27	7
3 Newcastle Jets	16	8	1	6	47	32	15
4 Melbourne Heart	16	8	1	7	30	27	3
5 Brisbane Roar	16	7	3	6	32	30	2
6 Adelaide United	16	6	4	6	33	33	0
7 Perth Glory FC	16	7	1	8	40	42	-2
8 WS Wanderers	16	5	4	7	23	37	-14
9 Sydney FC	16	5	3	8	38	42	-4
10 AIS	16	1	1	14	18	63	-45

Round 17 Fixtures

Saturday 16 February KO 2:00 PM
AIS v Brisbane Roar
AIS Athletics Track

Sunday 17 February KO 3:00 PM
Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners
Cromer Park, Dee Why

Sunday 17 February KO 3:00 PM
Melbourne Victory v Western Sydney
SS Anderson Res, Port Melbourne

Sunday 17 February KO 5:00 PM
Newcastle Jets V Adelaide United
Wanderers Oval, Broadmeadow

Sunday 17 February KO 8:00 PM
Perth Glory V Melbourne Heart
Intiga Stadium, Inglewood

All KO times ae AEDT



Heart's Ersin Kaya (left), backed up by Andrew Mullett, moves in on Steve Kuzmanovski (AIS). Photos: JOHN PUNSHON



Liam Rose (AIS) sails over a second half Melbourne Heart tackle. Photo: JOHN POUNSHON



Santo, Sam & Ed Podcast

Santo Cilauro, Sam Pang and Ed Kavalee are back in town with their own unique take on events of the week.

Their brief is simple - 7 days, 3 guys, no agenda.

Podcast available on iTunes

<http://itun.es/au/dOdQl.c>

Facebook: Santo, Sam and Ed

Twitter: @SantoSamEd



BUS TRAGEDY FOR YOUNG CHILEAN AWAY FANS



Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

A bus carrying fans of Chilean side O'Higgins has plunged into a ravine, killing 16 people.

Fire department officials say most of those who died last Saturday are 13 to 18 years old. One is an infant a few months old. Twenty-one people were reported injured.

Officials say the bus plunged roughly 150 metres into a ravine in a mountainous zone approximately 470 kilometres south of the capital.

The bus was carrying fans of the O'Higgins team back from a match its first team won against current league champions Huachipato, based in the southern city of Talcahuano.

State television says the Chinese-made bus had no seatbelts for its 27 intended passengers and was intended only for urban use.

COPA LIBERTADORES LAT-EST

Argentina's Vélez Sarsfield went down 1-0 away to Emelec thanks to an own goal by forward Facuando Ferreyra and had defender Fernando Tobio sent off after 62 minutes in their Group Four match on Tuesday.

The opening 15 minutes of the second half at the George Capwell stadium in Guayaquil was the decisive spell with Ferreyra deflecting Marcos Caicedo's 49th-minute shot past wrong-footed keeper Sebastián Sosa and Tobio being booked for the second time.

Uruguay's Nacional, dominated Barcelona almost throughout their Group One match at their very own Parque Central stadium in the country's capital.

The two-time finalists from Guayaquil were fortunate to salvage a 2-2 draw in a dramatic finale after going two goals down in 25 minutes.

Undisputed man of the match Damían Díaz put Barcelona ahead with a brilliant strike from outside the penalty area in the 17th and his fellow Argentine Ariel Nahuelpán increased the lead.

However, two veteran idols came off the bench and dragged Nacional back into the game with Sebastian "Loco" Abreu heading their first goal in the 70th minute as former Inter Milan maestro Álvaro Recoba launched a series of counter-attacks.

Both sides were reduced to 10 men when Barcelona's José Perla-za was sent off in the 75th minute and defender Alejandro Lembo of Nacional followed.

Although Lembo was booked for the second time in the 77th, he did not leave the field for another five minutes until Chilean referee Enrique Osses realised he had shown the player the yellow card earlier in the match.

Osses then denied Barcelona what looked a blatant penalty on Díaz in the dying minutes, play went back to the other end and Re-



Sebastián Ubilla netted a brace for Universidad de Chile in its opener against Venezuela's Deportivo Lara

coba laid onto Ivan Alonso's to head the equaliser and was the subject of intense

Universidad de Chile beat Deportivo Lara of Venezuela 2-0 at home with two goals from Sebastián Ubilla in their opening Group 7 match in Santiago at the Nacional stadium.

It was a key performance for Ubilla, under pressure for under-performing with "la U" in front of jubilant fans and to the delight of new Argentine coach Darío Franco.

Before print, Brazil awaits a blockbuster between Atlético Mineiro hosting Sao Paulo, the current 2012 Copa Sudamericana champions.

Ronaldinho and company will be up against Luis Fabiano, Lúcio, Paulo Henrique Ganso, Jadson and Denilson.

And of course, goal-scoring goal-keeper Rogério Ceni always deserves a mention at 40 years of age, still giving 2013 another shot.

It is Atlético Mineiro the busiest of the two in the transfer market with new arrivals Diego Tardelli from Qatar's Al-Gharafa alongside former Arsenal midfielder Gilberto Silva.

This duo will undoubtedly strengthen Ronaldinho's protagonismo and bolster up-and-coming midfielder Bernard.

Tardelli, who returning for a second stint is confident of developing rapid rapport on the pitch with 'Ronny' despite having only arrived last week.

"It's an honour to be playing with Ronaldinho, I'm a fan and have always followed him closely," the 27-year-old said.

"Now I'm playing alongside him. I hope we can build a good understanding on the pitch. I don't believe it will be difficult because he is intelligent and I also know how to think on the pitch."

Brazil's Gremio, coached by former Real Madrid boss Vanderlei Luxemburgo open their campaign with aforementioned Chilean champions Huachipato.

Up north in Chile's desert coast, Deportes Iquique hosts former Intercontinental champions Peñarol, whilst Boca Juniors with the re-signing of Juan Román Riquelme host Mexico's Toluca at the intimidating La Bombonera stadium.

Rio's other giant Fluminense makes the trip up north to Venezuela to face Caracas FC.

Be sure to catch all the latest action of the 2013 Copa Libertadores on Setanta Sports.

INDEPENDIENTE IN RELEGATION

Quilmes are at home to Tigre on Wednesday in a match postponed from December that could be critical for Independiente in their fight to avoid relegation for the first time in Argentine football.

Independiente and Quilmes are both in the Argentine first division's relegation standings, a separate table based on teams' average points over three seasons.

The "Diablos Rojos" (Red Devils) record seven Copa Libertadores title are a thing of the past and need a good "Final" championship - the second of the season. Avoiding the drop in June is their priority but the Reds made a bad start last weekend.

They lost 3-1 at home to Newell's Old Boys after striker Ernesto Farias blasted a penalty over the bar with the score at 1-1 and their next match is away to champions Vélez Sarsfield on Saturday.

"It happened at a key moment in the match. After the penalty the team dropped their heads," Farias said.

Quilmes may benefit from facing a weakened team if Tigre decide to field a majority of reserves to rest key players for Monday's home clash with Boca Juniors and their Libertadores Cup Group 2 match against Paraguay's Libertad next week.

COPA LIBERTADORES WRAP: NACIONAL SALVAGE DRAW, EMELEC EDGE VELEZ

Former Inter Milan forward Alvaro Recoba rescued a point for Nacional in the opening match of the Copa Libertadores second stage.

The 36-year-old laid on assists for both goals, including the 92nd-minute equaliser, as Uruguay's Nacional came from behind in a 2-2 draw against Ecuador's Barcelona in Montevideo.

Barcelona got off to a brilliant start with Damian Diaz netting an 18th-minute volley from 25 yards before Arien Nahuelpan bundled a Geovanny Nazareno cross home seven minutes later to double the advantage.

The home side brought on Recoba in the 57th minute and 12 minutes later the attacker's set-piece was finished off by Sebastian Abreu to give the home side hope.

Emotions boiled over shortly after as Barcelona saw Jose Perla-za receive a second yellow for shoving



Independiente are in hot water and need to pick up points to avoid a first-time relegation

Abreu in the 75th minute and Nacional's Alejandro Lembo got the same punishment for a poor challenge two minutes later.

With the game slipping away from Nacional, up stepped Recoba to take the corner and his delivery was met by Ivan Alonso to complete the comeback and send the home fans delirious.

In other Copa Libertadores action, a 50th-minute own goal from Facundo Ferreyra was enough to secure a 1-0 victory for Emelec against Velez Sarsfield, while a Sebastian Ubilla brace secured Universidad Chile's 2-0 home win versus Deportivo Lara.

TREZEGUET AIMING HIGH WITH RIVER PLATE

River Plate striker David Trezeguet says his team must fight for the Torneo Final championship, after beating Belgrano 2-1 to start their campaign.

Trezeguet made a goal in the hard-fought victory, with River Plate eventually overcoming their

local rivals despite the sending off of Leonardo Ponzio just after the start of the second half.

"I have wanted to continue contributing," the 35-year-old told TyCSports. "Hopefully (I'll) keep getting minutes and playing."

"We must fight for the title (low)." The former France international also spoke about the return of coach Ramon Diaz, who won five league titles, the Supercopa Sudamericana and the Copa Libertadores with the club between 1995 and 2003.

"The arrival of Ramon Diaz, the enthusiasm of the fans, because new players joined, because we could have a good pre-season (our goals have changed)," said the former Juventus star.

"He stopped speaking down (about what we could hope to achieve)... River is returning to what was its basic game.

"Mauro Diaz and Lanzini are improving significantly and will be very important."



French star David Trezeguet hopes to point River Plate in the right direction.



WANT TO PLAY SOCCER IN THE USA?

NSR Soccer Australia scout, evaluate & promote Australian players to 2500+ USA Colleges.



Register for a trial in your region, to find out more visit www.nsrsocceraustralia.com

London Calling



By Samuel Collins

Smiles were gleaming, laughter was audible and cameras were flashing. It's a familiar scene on a family holiday, but this wasn't a vacation. Though, it was a trip of sorts.

When Southampton chairman Nicola Cortese decided to replace Nigel Adkins with Mauricio Pochettino last month, one of the Argentine's initial maneuvers was to arrange a visit to Spain. The frigid conditions across England, twined with Southampton's unoccupied fixture schedule following an early cup exit, allowed the squad to travel to Barcelona, where they could train at the Estadi Olímpic de Montjuïc. And while intense training sessions in Catalonia's Olympic stadium were the primary objective, a tour of the Camp Nou proved to be equally useful. Lionel Messi's signed shirt, Barcelona's four European cups, one-hundred thousand scarlet and blue seats, it's easy to understand why Pochettino's players were all enchanted.

"Of course it's special," home-grown midfielder James Ward-Prowse told the club's Youtube channel. "It's home to the best team in the world." The break in Spain's second largest city three weeks ago helped to galvanise the squad, it was "a way to get to know the 'gaffer' better" as leading goal-scorer Ricky Lambert explained.

Pochettino's Saints project underway



New Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino is already starting to pay early dividends.

While the footballing world showed understandable empathy for Adkins, those affiliated with Pochettino expressed their excitement ahead of the 40-year old's appointment at St.Mary's. "It's an intelligent decision," insisted Spanish journalist Guillem Balague. "The fans will have to be patient, they're getting someone with a vision." But the Saints' final result under Adkins was an impressive 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge against Chelsea. Why the change of manager? And how, exactly, was Pochettino going to replicate the outstanding work of his predecessor - someone who had orchestrated the club's stunning rise from 22nd in England's third-tier to 15th in the Premier League within three years? "This wasn't a decision taken off the cuff," continued Balague. "The abilities of both the old coach and

the new coach have been analysed - it's about where Southampton want to go." Pochettino's contract with La Liga side Espanyol was mutually terminated in November, following a disagreement with upper hierarchy within the club. It brought an end to a largely successful four-year spell with the Periquitos - a period in which Pochettino finished 11th, 8th and then 14th. But at the time of the his axing this season, Pochettino and Espanyol were bottom in Spain's top-flight, accumulating just nine points after thirteen games. It only added to the confusion of Saints' fans. And while conspicuous, a strong start to life in the Premier League was imperative for Pochettino. The fixture list wasn't kind, though; three of the opening four games for "The Sheriff" - Pochettino's amusing nickname in Spain

- would see Everton and Manchester City travel to the South coast, as well as a trip to Old Trafford to tackle champions-elect Manchester United. There would be increased focus on his debut too, the clash with Everton was televised. It was a Monday night game, everyone was watching. Despite a goalless stalemate, an imposing display was encouraging. Another draw at relegation rivals Wigan followed, before a fine outing against the league leaders. And though Southampton lost 2-1, United coach Sir Alex Ferguson declared; "They produced the best performance anyone has done here this season." Praise indeed. The post-match statistics backed up the Scot's claims. 57% possession, 10 shots on target, everyone knew Pochettino's men deserved at least a point, probably more. And they would get more in the

next game. They'd do United a favour in the meantime, too. Manchester City entered St.Mary's on Saturday evening hoping to close the gap at the top of the table to six points, instead, Roberto Mancini's champions would end the weekend twelve points adrift. Pochettino would be the catalyst. His tactics against City worked splendidly; pressure high up the pitch, win the ball quickly, and play with intensity.

"It's been an incredible day," an elated Pochettino told reporters. "The key was all the work we out in over the last few weeks." They were a bit fortunate, mind. Howlers from England internationals Joe Hart and Gareth Barry aided Southampton's victory, but it would be erroneous to downplay the impact of Pochettino and his back-room team.

"We're playing some really good stuff under the new coach," says midfielder enforcer Jack Cork. The 23-year old is just one of several exciting talents plying their trade at Southampton. Others include Morgan Schneiderlin, Gastón Ramirez, Luke Shaw, Adam Lallana and the aforementioned Ward-Prowse. They're all under 24, and the latter three are all English, too. Teenage left-back Shaw, in particular, looks set to join an illustrious list of footballers to graduate from the Saints' academy - one that has produced Gareth Bale and Theo Walcott in recent times - and represent their country.

Adkins will never be forgotten, but it Southampton are entering an enticing new era under Pochettino.

UEFA Champions League:
Real Madrid 1 Manchester United 1
Cristiano Ronaldo netted against former club Manchester United as Real Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw in their Champions League last-16 clash. Danny Welbeck opened the scoring for the Premier League leaders with a 20th-minute header to deliver United a crucial away goal in Wednesday's first leg in Madrid. Ronaldo equalised with a header of his own 10 minutes later to set up a finely balanced second leg when Real travel to Old Trafford on March 5. Ronaldo came up against United for the first time since leaving for the capital club in 2009, but he could not find a second goal as the Spanish giants' prospects of a landmark 10th European title were dented.

Shakhtar Donetsk 2 Borussia Dortmund 2
Borussia Dortmund claimed a 2-2 draw at Shakhtar Donetsk to take a big step toward the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday. Dario Sma put hosts Shakhtar ahead with a wonderful free-kick, but Jurgen Klopp's men soon hit back through Robert Lewandowski. Douglas Costa looked to have given the hosts a slender advantage heading into the second leg, but Mats Hummels powered home a late header to leave Dortmund better placed to qualify for the next round.

Celtic 0-3 Juventus
Celtic were given a harsh lesson in Champions League knockout football by the old masters of Juventus. Brimming with confidence on the back of some tremendous European performances and results, Neil Lennon's Celtic were picked off ruthlessly. Alessandro Matri put the Italian side ahead in the opening moments, taking advantage of poor defending. Two late goals from Claudio Marchisio and Mirko Vucinic ensured the return leg will surely be a formality.

Balkan Wrap

By Alex Milic

Macedonia
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia manager Cedomir Janevski said Macedonia's 3:0 friendly win against Denmark was one of the country's finest first half displays in its football history.

Captain Goran Pandev, Agim Ibraimi and Nikolce Noveski scored in the first 25 minutes as Cedomir Janevski's side stormed towards a third successive home victory, this time against one of the most solid European football nations in Denmark. Janevski said following the match, "This was without doubt the best first half we've played in our history." Former Red Star manager, Janevski has brought a new life in the national team, his team beat the favored Serbia 1-0 in a FIFA World Cup qualifier in October before overcoming Slovenia 3-2 in a December friendly. He says, "Before the match I was a little concerned because a lot of our players are not up to full match speed. However, they all showed that with good organisation and discipline we can compete against the strongest sides. We are making progress in our game, step by step, and I'm pleased with that." Janevski says, "We started the match with a great tactical display. We knew Denmark like to keep possession, so



Cedomir Janevski

we were aggressive from the first whistle and we attacked their goal. Even more satisfying for me is that the goals came from pre-planned and well-executed attacks, which we had worked on in training." Denmark fielded a strong side in Skopje - Nicklas Bendtner the only notable absentee - and coach Morten Olsen made no excuses for their showing. "I take responsibility for this," he said. "It was not good enough on my part. We tried a formation in midfield with three skilful players, but it didn't work out on a pitch like that. I still believe we have a good football team." FYROM, meanwhile, must prove their credentials at home to Group A leaders Belgium in their next


qualifier on 22 March. That match will have particular significance for Janevski, who spent a chunk of his playing career in Belgium, returning to coach Club Brugge KV to Belgian Cup success during a brief spell in 2006/07. "Belgium is my second home and my family live there, but there is no room for emotion in football," he said. "I'm manager of FYROM now. I was born here and will do everything I can, together with my players, so that we are ready for Belgium. However, I'm warning everyone - this victory must not prompt us to lose our heads: we have to remain grounded."

Montenegro
The Football Federation of Montenegro has made huge efforts to develop women's football, with domestic competitions and national teams now flourishing.

The nation is known as a superpower in Women's Handball in which they won the recent European Championships and claimed Silver at the 2012 London Olympics. It is also a power in Men's Water Polo where they lifted the European crown in 2008. The game of football is becoming ever more impressive for the Men's national side who are top of their qualifications group ahead of England and now it's also time for women's football in Montenegro. The Football Federation of Montenegro (FSCG), which became a UEFA member association in 2007, started from scratch and can be proud of its progress. A 400 per cent rise in registered players has gone hand in hand with competitive debuts on the European stage at both youth and senior levels. Zoran Mijovic says, "We started from nothing, we now have three national teams, 12 clubs and up to 300 players. [In 2010] we had four clubs and 50-60 players. Women's football was at a very low level." "The idea was to improve and develop. We did not expect that it would improve this quickly. The important thing is that football is the most popular sport, and that girls like playing football. Finally, they have a chance to play football in Montenegro." The federation got itself organised and has pushed women's football high on the agenda. "Women's football in Montenegro has been devel-



oping in the last three to four years," said FSCG general secretary Momir Djurdjevac. "Not many clubs in Montenegro participated in tournaments or played tough matches abroad. There was neither an organised approach nor a league in Montenegro. We realised that if we left clubs alone and approached the development of women's football superficially, there would be no women's football in Montenegro. "We decided to start a tournament called the Trophy of Montenegro," Djurdjevac added. "We gathered the teams that existed at that time in Montenegro. That was the beginning of organised women's football here." Since then, it has been onwards and upwards, and a competition debut in this season's UEFA European Women's Under-17 Championship proved quite a success, with two wins out of three matches in their first qualifying round group tournament in the Netherlands. "Literally, we had only 26 girls of that age available," said Zoran Mijovi. "In comparison with big countries like Ukraine, Kazakhstan and the Netherlands who were in our group, that is a really small number of girls. However, I think in the ten months from forming the team till the competition in the Netherlands, we developed lots of activities and an excellent plan. "After a winter training camp, we met every week with the girls. They played friendly matches against either boys or older girls. They played four two-legged friendly ties against national teams from countries in the region. In the end, we played [in Group 8] in the Netherlands and I think we had great success. We had two wins, which nobody expected."

Moreover, nine of the squad flew in an aeroplane for the first time en route to the tournament. Sandra Mijovi, coordinator for women's football development in Montenegro, is relishing how people are warming to the game's improvement. "When I look back at everything we achieved in 2012 ... We have three teams, we have a league that is working well, we were in the Netherlands where we achieved a fantastic result - when I see happiness on the girls' faces when they are singing the national anthem, and how happy they are when they succeed. "When I see people who didn't know women's football existed in Montenegro, or that women played football at all; when I see that now they recognise us, that they're interested in the girls and that they are following our success, then my heart is full and I say to myself: 'This is it. It is worth all my time and being away from home. Yes, it is worth it. I am proud to be part of this.'" Naturally, the women's U17 players are proud about representing their country and acting as pioneers for the sport in Montenegro. "When I was a little girl and began playing football, everyone was telling me football is not for girls," said midfielder Darija Djuki. "They were saying it is a man's sport. In the last year people have changed their opinion about women's football." "We have our role models from the national team and some other big clubs," added defender Tatjana Djurkovi. "We would like to become similar role models for younger girls. We would be proud if someone saw us as a good example."



1300 793 505

GISS academies provide players the chance to be able to live their dreams, living the life of a professional European footballer, and living and breathing football daily at the highest level possible.



asroma

LIVE THE DREAM



EPL

Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

City Stumble As United Strive

Here's a spit-fire round up of EPL action (apologises to the teams who couldn't make it)...

Everton needed last season's memories of that miraculous 4-4 draw to inspire them a second time around. It didn't happen. And once, the league's top scorer got in the mix, it was game-set-match. By the way, the leading goal scorer is...

Robin Van Persie, who now has 18 goals in the league and has pushed United on to the brink of the title. Manchester City spent \$1 billion to win the title; Manchester United spent \$24 million to get it back. Twelve points clear at top; RVP is everyone's favourite for the player of the season. Maybe except for... Tottenham's Gareth Bale who might have something to say about that. He's probably the best player in the league. RVP have the luxury of quality players around him. Bale doesn't. So it's even more impressive that his performances are of the highest calibre. He's the reason Spurs are third. Come the end-of-season awards; don't be surprised if Bale gets something. If he loses, it will be sad, but not as sad as...

City's title ambitions, which have gone out with a whimper. Even Mancini admitted that the title "was gone", after a "worse than poor performance". Defensive inept; lack of attacking play and too many underperforming players,



Southampton's Jason Puncheon takes the mickey out of Man City

means that retaining the title looks dead and buried. They really need a miracle...

Just like QPR, who desperately need a miracle to stay up. Swansea smashed them, with Michu scoring twice again. Harry Redknapp is known as 'Houdini' for saving relegation-battling teams. He'll need to pull off something magical if he's going to save QPR. But back to...

Swansea and their incredible season. Michael Laudrup's arrival doesn't seem to have changed anything about the Welsh side. They definitely look like staying up this season. But Laudrup has got his eyes on the League Cup, Swansea's first chance at a major trophy. He's probably hoping that none of his stars gets injured before then. Unlike...

Jack Wilshere, who'll be out for "only four to five days" according to Arsene Wenger. That's after Arsenal's 1-0 win over Sunderland, their second consecutive 1-nil result. It echoed the defensive solitude days of George Graham's "One-nil to the Arsenal". Whether it lasts or not, remains to be seen. Just like...

Chelsea holding onto a win. That's

right, after the traditional two-goal lead, the Blues usually give two goals to give the opposition the chance to steal the points. It's happened in the last three of four games. This time though, they scored two more, instead of conceding. Perhaps Rafael Benitez's has gone his message across...

Just like Aston Villa's Paul Lambert, who finally took the lead then took the points. In similar vein to Chelsea, they've had opportunities to win, but they shipped in too many goals. It didn't happen against West Ham though, and they're out of the drop out. Which means that...

Reading are back in it. After some marvellous comeback performances of late, the fans were wondering if it was going to happen again, this time against Stoke City. But it didn't, and their good run has come to an end...

Just like Everton's, as their five game undefeated run ended to Manchester United, exactly like Manchester City's title hopes...

FA CUP Preview.

And we're down to the last seventeen of the competition. It really should be sixteen,

ENGLAND

EPL



Last5games

Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Manchester United	26	21	2	3	62	31	+31	65	W W W D W
2 Manchester City	26	15	8	3	48	24	+24	53	L D W D W
3 Chelsea	26	14	7	5	55	28	+27	49	W L D W D
4 Tottenham Hotspur	26	14	6	6	44	30	+14	48	W W D D D
5 Arsenal	26	12	8	6	50	29	+21	44	W W D W L
6 Everton	26	10	12	4	40	32	+8	42	L D W D D
7 Swansea City	26	9	10	7	38	29	+9	37	W L D W D
8 West Bromwich ...	26	11	4	11	36	35	+1	37	W L L D L
9 Liverpool	26	9	9	8	44	34	+10	36	L D D W L
10 Stoke City	26	7	12	7	26	31	-5	33	W L D L L
11 West Ham United	26	8	6	12	29	38	-9	30	L W L D L
12 Fulham	26	7	8	11	36	42	-6	29	D L W L D
13 Sunderland	26	7	8	11	28	34	-6	29	L D D W W
14 Norwich City	26	6	11	9	25	40	-15	29	D D D D L
15 Southampton	26	6	9	11	36	45	-9	27	W D L D D
16 Newcastle United	26	7	6	13	34	46	-12	27	L W W L D
17 Aston Villa	26	5	9	12	25	50	-25	24	W D D L L
18 Reading	26	5	8	13	33	48	-15	23	L D D W W
19 Wigan Athletic	26	5	6	15	30	51	-21	21	L D D D L
20 Queens Park Ra...	26	2	11	13	19	41	-22	17	L D D D D

but with the FA Cup's history dictating that draws means replays, we've got one replay this weekend, and seven "proper" clashes.

So first up the replay. And it's Chelsea versus Brentford. The winner will go on to play Middlesbrough on February 27th. And winner should really be Chelsea, but to be honest, they way they look; they could easily drop out of the competition. So a surprise isn't out of the question. Rafael Benitez knows he'll need to at least get one trophy this season if he wants to stay on.

Which surprisingly, are the same rumours that have been quietly surfacing around Arsene Wenger's future at the Gunners. Considering there is a chance they miss out on the Champions League, it seems only a trophy will be Wenger's salvation. Credit though is due to Wenger, who is putting out his big boys for Cup clashes. He clearly is interested in taking home to the cup, and has highlights its importance. Considering they welcome Blackburn to the Emirates, there is a chance to go further.

Now, we move onto the next two big teams, still left: The Manchester duopoly; both with very

different outlooks on the competition.

City's dismal league form has left them twelve points behind United, making the FA Cup their most realistic chance for silverware this season. It's not going to be easy for them though; they welcome Leeds United to the Etihad Stadium. Expect Roberto Manicini to put out his best men, especially since the title might already be out of reach.

As for Manchester United, they are coming in the most testing part of the season, with games piling up left, right and centre. By the time you'll read this, United would have travel to the Bernabeu to take on Real Madrid in the Champions League. Coupled with Premier League games, Sir Alex Ferguson has a lot of rotation to consider, if he wants to complete a "treble". And unluckily for Ferguson, United will face Premier League opposition for the third time in the Cup, when they welcome Reading to Old Trafford.

Still, there a handful of Premier League teams in the hunt for the FA Cup. Wigan Athletic travel to Huddersfield Town and is in that category of "surprise packages". Why's that? Well, down the years,

Latest Results	Next Match
Tottenham 2 - 1 Newcastle Utd	Liverpool v Swansea City
Chelsea 4 - 1 Wigan	Fulham v Stoke City
Norwich City 0 - 0 Fulham	Arsenal v Aston Villa
Stoke City 2 - 1 Reading	Norwich City v Everton
Sunderland 0 - 1 Arsenal	QPR v Man Utd
Swansea City 4 - 1 QPR	Reading v Wigan
Southampton 3 - 1 Man City	WBA v Sunderland
Aston Villa 2 - 1 West Ham Utd	Man City v Chelsea
Man Utd 2 - 0 Everton	Newcastle Utd v Southampton
Liverpool 0 - 2 WBA	West Ham v Tottenham
*Games to be played 23/2/13 due to FA Cup this weekend	
One To Watch This Weekend...	
Last season, the same game, ended up costing Manchester United the title. The stakes aren't as high this time around, but Everton has been brilliant this season, so expect them to take on United, who hasn't performed to their best lately.	

they've been a host of Premier League teams who've struggled with relegation (and even dropped down) but have pulled off remarkable Cup runs. Wigan can certainly continue their magical form. Finally there's Everton, who travel to Oldham Athletic, who knocked out Evertonians' most hated rival, Liverpool in the previous round. Everton have always produced consistently in the FA Cup under David Moyes. The fact is many see winning the FA Cup as a reward for Moyes' longevity at Everton. The made the semi-finals last year and the final in 2009. Repeating the effort might be difficult, with Everton also battling for European places.

As for the rest of the round, we have a host of lower league teams doing battle, so expect some tight contests and move David-versus-Goliath matches in the future. Luton Town welcomes Millwall to Kenilworth Road, while Barnsley travel to Stadium MK to face Milton Keynes Dons.

Andrew Bishara runs the popular football website <http://thetrequartista.com>

Bale on the way to conquering the world

London Eye



By Eddie Gray

Quick, direct, powerful, elusive, and destructive; remind you of anyone?

The similarities between Gareth Bale and Cristiano Ronaldo are growing week by week as the Welshman continues to tear Premier League defences apart and single-handedly win games for his side.

Much was the same with Ronaldo during his time at Manchester United, first playing from the right wing, before being deployed further up the field; he would carry United through games when they were struggling as well as humiliating teams with his unbelievable ability to score from any distance at any time.

The Portuguese star showed himself to the world as one of the best on the planet during his time in England and after getting his dream move to Real Madrid continued to establish his growing reputation, rivalling Lionel Messi for the title of the best player on Earth.

Ronaldo's rise has been phenomenal and the same success could be replicated by Bale as the similarities between the two are remarkable: the pair stand at 6ft 1inch each, they both predominantly come from wide positions to expose opposition defences, have free kick techniques which match and they both have a ten-



World at his feet: Welsh wizard Gareth Bale may well end up following in the footsteps of Christian Ronaldo and find himself in Real Madrid colours before too long.

dency to go down a little too easily.

Bale has become Tottenham's 'go to man' with his pace and power, much like Ronaldo, and is often the perfect outlet for the London side, and having started to add regular goals to his game he is becoming a huge force on the world stage.

The first example he provided of being a real, global talent came in the Champions League 2010 group stages against Inter Milan, where he made Maicon, then rated as one of the best right backs in the world, look like a duck out of water. Bale was exhilarating in both group games, at home he

provided assists for Peter Crouch and Roman Pavlyuchenko in a 3-1 win, but it was in the away tie where the former Southampton man really announced he had arrived.

Spurs would go on to lose the match 4-3, but at the tender age of 21 Bale scored a hat-trick on the grandest stage in European cup football and annihilated the entire Inter defence in the process, a backline which managed to hold off the attacks of Barcelona and Bayern Munich the year before to win the same competition outright.

In that season Bale played from the left of midfield, having pro-

gressed forward from his previous favoured position at left back, and the transition was an excellent one, with many teams now opting to put two or even three players on the wide man as soon as he gets the ball due to the danger he possesses.

Again, the comparison and link to Ronaldo is obvious. The Real Madrid man started his career in England as an out and out right midfielder, much like Bale but on the left, and from there used his skill, guile and power to cause havoc, again like his Welsh counterpart.

But as the former Manchester United player improved and be-

came the devastating goal scorer he is now, his position evolved, which saw his starting position further up the field as United moved towards a 4-3-3 formation with Ronaldo either left or right of a front man.

This evolution proved a masterstroke as the Portuguese captain went on to break numerous scoring records for the red devils before moving to Spanish giants Real Madrid and remarkably kept bettering his scoring exploits, this time from the left of a 4-2-3-1 formation.

Now under Andre Villas Boas at Spurs, Bale is also in a formation which is much like the one Madrid use, with Bale on the left of the three attacking players either behind Jermain Defoe, Emmanuel Adebayor and lately Clint Dempsey.

Villas Boas has continued and further added to the freedom given to his star man, which was initially installed by former manager Harry Redknapp, with Bale free to roam the pitch and get on the ball in areas of greater influence far more regularly compared to when he was confined to the wing.

This development has benefited Tottenham massively as now Bale is the man the team is built around resulting in him being a constant threat throughout the 90 minutes, instead of having to wait for the ball on the left which happened early on in his career.

However, to say Bale and Ronaldo are on the same level at this moment in time would be naive as the former is yet to match the goals the latter has delivered so impressively. But signs are now beginning to show that Bale can go on to reach the heights Ronaldo is currently setting, but that may have to come with another

evolution of position.

At this present moment in time Bale starts from the left flank and, despite his rotation whilst on the field, predominantly comes from that side when attacking. But as Ronaldo has shown with his transition to the left, cutting in from the wide position onto his favoured right foot often opens up far greater opportunities to find the back of the net.

So despite the similarities and comparability between Bale and Ronaldo to this point the man from Wales could still yet emulate the former Manchester United man one step further and make the switch to the right hand side so he can burst inside and add a greater goal threat than he currently possesses which would undoubtedly add to the arsenal he has at his disposal already.

To this point the parallels between the pair can only be positive for Tottenham as they have a player who is developing towards one of the best on the planet, but there is one similarity which Spurs fans will hope soon disappears between their man and Ronaldo, his desire to play abroad.

Bale has made no secret of his desire to play in either in Italy or Spain, exactly like Ronaldo, and the London side will be left seriously depleted if he chooses to further his career in Europe.

Daniel Levy, Andre Villas Boas and Tottenham fans will be hoping Bale can go on to replicate everything Ronaldo has done at Manchester United and Real Madrid, but for the link to end there as losing Bale would be disastrous for their Premier League and Champions League ambitions.

But wherever Bale ends he is destined to become one of the world's best.



Wrap
Italia

By Luca Cetta

Juve Takes
The Advantage

Lazio and Napoli's draw allowed Juventus to extend their lead at the top of the table after they disposed of Fiorentina. Inter won, while Mario Balotelli was on target again for Milan, but there was more grief for Roma.

Saturday night was billed as a pivotal double header. It was headlined by Napoli's trip to Lazio. The capital club trailed the Neapolitans by six points, having seen their Scudetto charge halted by a run of two losses and a draw. Napoli roared into championship contention with five wins from six matches. It was enough for Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon to declare they had to be wary of the charging Parteneopei.

Miroslav Klose missed out for Vladimir Petkovic's Lazio, but Hernanes was able to play with a protective helmet. Napoli's Swiss midfielder Blerim Dzemaili was banned. It was all Lazio in the opening stages and they were rewarded on 11 minutes - Sergio Floccari continuing his rich vein of form. It was his fourth League goals in five matches. He rattled the post shortly after, as Edinson Cavani rocked the woodwork at the other end. It proved to be a thoroughly



Antonio Candreva (Lazio) competes for the ball with Edinson Cavani (Napoli) during their 1-1 draw in Serie A.

entertaining affair and Napoli pushed for an equaliser. They ended with four forwards and two creative midfielders on the pitch. The visitors were rewarded three minutes from time when defender Hugo Campagnaro spectacularly volleyed home. Incredibly, there was still time for Floccari to hit the bar with a header, as it ended 1-1. Crucially for Napoli, it leaves them well-clear of Lazio in second place. Walter Mazzarri said Napoli "must treasure this point", while Petkovic lamented Lazio's finishing. "We deserved to win a spectacular game, but Napoli deserve compliments too. It was a wonderful match. We had several opportunities to make it 2-0, but weren't sharp enough to finish them off. It's a shame we did not win." Napoli kept distance to the Biancocelesti but lost ground on Juventus after the Turin club defeated Fiorentina. The bad blood which exists between the clubs took an odd turn when Fioren-

tina chief Andrea Delle Valle was incensed a Juventus.com match preview video mentioned Juventus Stadium would be 'hell' for the Viola, quoting famous Florentine poet Dante Alighieri. The patron was left 'speechless'. Returning to matters on the pitch and Turin was akin to hell for Vincenzo Montella's side. They were second best as their big guns failed to fire. No such problems for Juve, who hit the front when Mirko Vucinic fired home a superb volley. Alessandro Matri doubled the advantage, scoring despite his boot falling off as he winded up to shoot! The win extended their lead to five points. Fiorentina remain outside the European places. Inter ended a run of poor results with a 3-1 success over Chievo. In a pulsating match, Antonio Cassano drilled home from a tight angle less than 120 seconds in, before Chievo found an equaliser. Goals from Andrea Ranocchia and a returning Diego Milito made

ITALY

Serie A



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Juventus	24	17	4	3	50	16	+34	55	WWDWD
2 Napoli	24	15	5	4	46	21	+25	50	DWWDW
3 Lazio	24	13	5	6	35	26	+9	44	DLLDW
4 Internazionale	24	13	4	7	39	29	+10	43	WLDDW
5 Milan	24	12	5	7	42	30	+12	41	DWWWL
6 Fiorentina	24	11	6	7	41	29	+12	39	LWLDL
7 Udinese	24	9	9	6	35	33	+2	36	WLWLW
8 Catania	24	10	6	8	31	30	+1	36	DLWWL
9 Roma	24	10	4	10	50	45	+5	34	LLDDL
10 Parma	24	8	8	8	30	31	-1	32	DLDDL
11 Torino	24	6	11	7	27	27	+0	28	LLDWW
12 Chievo	24	8	4	12	25	39	-14	28	LLDWL
13 Sampdoria	24	8	5	11	31	30	+1	28	WDWLD
14 Atalanta	24	8	5	11	21	33	-12	27	DWLDL
15 Bologna	24	7	5	12	33	34	-1	26	DWDLW
16 Cagliari	24	6	7	11	26	41	-15	25	DWDDL
17 Genoa	24	5	7	12	25	37	-12	22	DWDLL
18 Pescara	24	6	3	15	20	49	-29	21	DLLLL
19 Siena	24	6	6	12	24	34	-10	18	DWLWL
20 Palermo	24	3	9	12	21	38	-17	18	DLDDL



Latest Results	This Week
Juventus 2 - 0 Fiorentina	Milan v Parma
Lazio 1 - 1 Napoli	Chievo v Palermo
Parma 0 - 0 Genoa	Roma v Juventus
Atalanta 0 - 0 Catania	Torino v Atalanta
Cagliari 1 - 1 Milan	Catania v Bologna
Palermo 1 - 1 Pescara	Pescara v Cagliari
Sampdoria 3 - 1 Roma	Napoli v Sampdoria
Bologna 1 - 1 Siena	Genoa v Udinese
Udinese 1 - 0 Torino	Fiorentina v Inter
Inter 3 - 1 Chievo	Siena v Lazio

One To Watch This Weekend...
Sampdoria have taken points from Juventus, Milan and Roma during Delio Rossi spell, proving to be no pushovers. Napoli must be wary of their visitor to the Stadio San Paolo.

The Viola have won just once in 2013, but have only suffered one defeat in front of their own fans and will look to keep in touch with the top three. Napoli host Sampdoria, who have shown marked improvement under Delio Rossi. The boss was sent off late in the Roma match and so must sit in the stands here. The Azzurri will look to take advantage of a Juve slip-up as they hunt a first Scudetto since 1989-90. Elsewhere, Lazio are on the road at relegation threatened Siena, while Milan host mid-table Parma. Udinese and Catania cannot be discounted from the European race after good recent form, and face Genoa and Bologna respectively. Chievo will aim to heap more misery on Palermo, while Pescara will be keen to allay their own relegation fears at home against Cagliari. Finally, Torino will look to bounce back versus Atalanta, after their six match unbeaten streak was ended a week ago.

Looking ahead: can Roma end their crisis?
Things don't get any easier for Roma. After Aurelio Andreazzoli lost his first match, the Gallorossi welcome leaders Juventus to the Stadio Olimpico. Fresh from their Champions League win at Celtic, the Bianconeri welcome back Leonardo Bonucci and Kwadwo Asamoah. Juve have a good recent record in Rome, having not lost since 2003-04. Fiorentina host Inter in a match pivotal to the European zone. Inter leapfrogged their city rivals to sit just a point from the Champions League, despite shaky recent form.



Viva
Espana

By Pepe Lopez

Late Drama Gives
Valencia UCL Hope

For all intents and purposes, the Qatari financially backed Paris St Germain had 2 time Champions League Runners-Up Valencia FC on the ropes in the Round of 16 1st Leg away from home and were inches away from a knock-out blow. Ezequiel Lavezzi and Javier Pastore took full advantage of the visitor's enterprising attacking play on the wings in the 1st half, and at halftime PSG supporters were asking the question if this could possibly be their first ever Champions League winning team in the making.

With less than 20 minutes of play remaining, it appeared as though the French club had scored a third goal, however a goal was disallowed for offside. Paris Coach Carlo Ancelotti was evidently satisfied at this point in the match, with a 2-0 away scoreline and attempted to close out the contest, by substituting both goalscorers, Lavezzi and Pastore. That's were PSG have left themselves now with an anxious 3 week wait for the return leg in Paris. With defender Marco Veratti already sus-



Valencia came undone at home to French high-flyers Paris St Germain

pending himself from the 2nd leg due to a 3rd accumulated Champions League yellow card, PSG gave away a last minute speculative goal, immediately followed by a classic Zlatan Ibrahimovic brain snap. A raised foot directly in front of the assistant referee had the match referee reaching for the red card and putting Zlatan out of the 2nd leg. Valencia will now be able to approach the 2nd leg with confidence that they can play an attacking style of football without having to concentrate on keeping Paris's star forward from catching the Spanish club on the counter. Speaking with French TV station Canal+, Paris St Germain Coach Carlo Ancelotti had this to say; "Our third goal should've have stood. Ibrahimovic's red card was not deserved. I don't understand it. It's not fair. We conceded a goal and Ibra-

himovic got a red card and I don't think that he deserved it because it was a normal tackle. And so, because of this, we are really disappointed because the play was really good, we played really well, focused on the game, and for this we have to be happy but the end of the game was not good for us. I think it was a normal tackle, nothing special, I was surprised to see a red card. Valencia are a good team and we have to know that we have played just the first half of this game, and we have to play the second half at home. It will be better for us, but we have to pay attention."

Valencia forward Nelson Valdez had this to say to UEFA.COM website; "It's a really tough result and, honestly, things looked even worse for us. But that goal at the end not only gave us back a little bit of pride it added just a sensation of hope -

SPAIN

La Liga



Last5games

Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Barcelona	23	20	2	1	78	26	+52	62	W D W L W
2 Atlético Madrid	23	16	2	5	44	23	+21	50	L W L W W
3 Real Madrid	23	14	4	5	58	22	+36	46	W L W W D
4 Málaga	23	11	6	6	36	21	+15	39	W D W D L
5 Valencia	23	11	4	8	32	35	-3	37	W D W L W
6 Rayo Vallecano	23	12	1	10	33	39	-6	37	W L W L W
7 Real Sociedad	23	10	6	7	37	29	+8	36	W W D W D
8 Real Betis	23	11	3	9	31	34	-3	36	D L L D W
9 Levante	23	10	3	10	29	35	-6	33	L L W L L
10 Real Valladolid	23	8	6	9	32	29	+3	30	D D L W W
11 Sevilla	23	8	5	10	30	34	-4	29	L W W D L
12 Getafe	23	8	5	10	29	42	-13	29	L W L D D
13 Espanyol	23	7	7	9	30	34	-4	28	W W D W W
14 Athletic Club	23	7	5	11	29	46	-17	26	L D W D L
15 Granada	23	7	5	11	22	32	-10	26	W W L W D
16 Real Zaragoza	23	7	3	13	23	33	-10	24	L D D L L
17 Osasuna	23	5	7	11	19	27	-8	22	D W L W D
18 Celta de Vigo	23	5	5	13	21	28	-7	20	L D L D L
19 Mallorca	23	4	6	13	23	43	-20	18	D L L L L
20 Deportivo La C...	23	3	7	13	27	51	-24	16	L L L L D



Latest Results	This Week
Mallorca 1 - 1 Osasuna	Sevilla v Deportivo
Celta de Vigo 0 - 1 Valencia	Getafe v Celta de Vigo
Levante 1 - 2 Málaga	Málaga v Athletic Club
Deportivo 0 - 3 Granada	Granada v Barcelona
Real Madrid 4 - 1 Sevilla	Osasuna v Real Zaragoza
Barcelona 6 - 1 Getafe	Real Sociedad v Levante
R Zaragoza 1 - 2 R Sociedad	Valencia v Mallorca
Athletic Club 0 - 4 Espanyol	RValladolid v Atl Madrid
R Vallecano 2 - 1 Atlético Madrid	Espanyol v Real Betis
R Betis 0 - 0 R Valladolid	Real Madrid v Rayo Vallecano

One To Watch This Weekend...
Fresh from an unexpected 2-1 win over local rivals Atletico Madrid, Rayo Vallecano will be hoping to go 1 better this Sunday, when they travel to the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Whilst Rayo will be heavy under dogs, they will have had a full week's rest, whilst the opponents Real Madrid will be nursing many wounded players after a bruising encounter in the UEFA Champions League Round of 16 1st Leg against Manchester United.

day to the Hospital of Barcelona, because of a renal colic. The player has been subjected to appropriate treatment to remove kidney stones on Tuesday and has already been discharged from hospital," a statement on the Barcelona website read. "Villa will rejoin training this Wednesday and could be available for the next game against Granada."

The former Valencia forward has struggled to hold down a regular place in Tito Vilanova's starting XI since making his return from a broken leg, but he could start against Granada on Saturday.

Ancelotti admits Madrid appeal
Paris Saint-Germain coach Carlo Ancelotti said it would be hard to turn down Real Madrid if the Spanish champions approached

WORLD OF SOCCER

THE ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR SOCCER NEEDS

World of Soccer - Dandenong
Shop 4/119 Lonsdale Street
Tel: 9794 5860

FREE POSTAGE ANYWHERE
IN AUSTRALIA


www.worldofsocca.com.au

26

Goal! Weekly - Friday 15th February 2013

CROATIA 1.HNL 															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first						
1 Dinamo Zagreb	18	13	2	3	39	14	+25	41	W	L	W	L	W		
2 Hajduk Split	19	9	6	4	27	14	+13	33	W	D	D	D	W		
3 Lokomotiva	19	9	5	5	27	21	+6	32	W	L	W	D	W		
4 Rijeka	19	9	5	5	28	23	+5	32	D	D	W	W	L		
5 Slaven Koprivnica	19	9	4	6	28	26	+2	31	D	W	L	W	L		
6 Split	19	9	3	7	28	22	+6	30	L	W	W	L	W		
7 Osijek	18	5	8	5	19	17	+2	23	L	D	L	D	L		
8 Istra 1961	19	5	5	9	17	22	-5	20	L	D	L	L	W		
9 Inter Zaprešić	19	4	7	8	21	25	-4	19	L	L	L	W	D		
10 Zadar	19	4	5	10	20	36	-16	17	W	D	W	L	W		
11 Cibalia	19	4	4	11	16	31	-15	16	L	D	L	W	L		
12 Zagreb	19	4	4	11	12	31	-19	16	W	D	W	L	L		

GERMANY Bundesliga 															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first						
1 Bayern München	21	17	3	1	55	7	+48	54	W	W	W	W	D		
2 Borussia Dortmund	21	11	6	4	47	26	+21	39	L	W	W	W	W		
3 Bayer Leverkusen	21	11	5	5	41	29	+12	38	D	L	D	W	W		
4 Eintracht Fran...	21	11	4	6	38	31	+7	37	D	W	W	L	W		
5 Freiburg	21	8	7	6	26	20	+6	31	W	L	D	D	W		
6 Mainz 05	21	9	4	8	28	25	+3	31	D	L	W	D	W		
7 Hamburger SV	21	9	4	8	26	27	-1	31	W	L	W	D	L		
8 Borussia M'gla...	21	7	9	5	31	32	-1	30	D	L	W	D	W		
9 Hannover 96	21	9	2	10	39	39	+0	29	W	L	W	L	L		
10 Schalke 04	21	8	5	8	33	35	-2	29	L	L	D	W	L		
11 Werder Bremen	21	8	4	9	36	38	-2	28	W	W	L	W	L		
12 Wolfsburg	21	7	5	9	22	30	-8	26	W	D	L	W	L		
13 Nürnberg	21	6	7	8	20	27	-7	25	D	W	L	D	D		
14 Stuttgart	21	7	4	10	23	39	-16	25	L	L	L	L	L		
15 Fortuna Düsseldorf	21	6	6	9	26	29	-3	24	L	W	L	L	L		
16 Hoffenheim	21	4	4	13	26	45	-19	16	W	L	D	L	D		
17 Augsburg	21	2	9	10	17	33	-16	15	D	D	D	W	D		
18 Greuther Fürth	21	2	6	13	13	35	-22	12	L	W	L	L	D		

THE CHAMPIONSHIP 															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first						
1 Cardiff City	30	20	4	6	51	30	+21	64	D	W	D	D	W		
2 Hull City	31	17	5	9	42	33	+9	56	W	L	W	D	L		
3 Leicester City	30	16	5	9	52	26	+26	53	L	W	W	W	W		
4 Watford	31	16	5	10	60	42	+18	53	D	W	L	W	W		
5 Crystal Palace	31	14	10	7	54	39	+15	52	D	W	L	D	L		
6 Middlesbrough	31	16	2	13	50	46	+4	50	W	L	L	L	L		
7 Brighton & Hov...	31	11	13	7	43	34	+9	46	D	W	L	D	D		
8 Blackburn Rovers	31	11	11	9	42	38	+4	44	D	W	D	D	L		
9 Burnley	31	12	7	12	47	46	+1	43	L	D	L	W	W		
10 Derby County	31	11	9	11	48	45	+3	42	L	D	W	D	L		
11 Leeds United	31	12	6	13	41	48	-7	42	L	D	L	W	L		
12 Millwall	31	11	8	12	41	43	-2	41	L	L	L	L	D		
13 Nottingham Forest	31	10	11	10	40	44	-4	41	L	L	L	D	W		
14 Blackpool	31	10	10	11	50	46	+4	40	W	L	W	L	L		
15 Charlton Athletic	31	10	10	11	41	43	-2	40	D	L	L	W	W		
16 Birmingham City	31	9	11	11	41	48	-7	38	D	W	D	D	D		
17 Bolton Wanderers	30	9	10	11	43	44	-1	37	W	L	D	D	L		
18 Huddersfield Town	31	9	10	12	33	51	-18	37	D	L	W	L	D		
19 Sheffield Wedn...	31	10	6	15	38	47	-9	36	D	W	D	D	W		
20 Ipswich Town	31	9	8	14	33	52	-19	35	L	W	L	D	D		
21 Wolverhampton ...	31	9	7	15	37	45	-8	34	D	L	L	D	D		
22 Barnsley	31	9	7	15	36	47	-11	34	W	W	D	D	W		
23 Bristol City	31	9	4	18	44	58	-14	31	W	L	W	W	L		
24 Peterborough U...	30	9	3	18	43	55	-12	30	W	D	D	L	W		

Greece Super League 															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first						
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	21	17	3	1	45	13	+32	54	W	L	W	W	W		
2 PAOK	21	11	6	4	30	15	+15	39	W	D	L	D	L		
3 Asteras Tripolis	21	11	5	5	29	14	+15	38	L	D	W	W	W		
4 Atromitos	21	9	9	3	22	16	+6	36	D	W	L	W	D		
5 PAS Giannina	21	8	6	7	20	18	+2	30	W	D	W	L	D		
6 Xanthi	21	7	7	7	18	17	+1	28	W	W	W	D	L		
7 Levadiakos	21	8	4	9	17	21	-4	28	L	D	L	W	L		
8 OFI	21	7	5	9	24	27	-3	26	L	W	L	W	W		
9 Panathinaikos	21	6	10	5	22	22	+0	26	L	D	W	D	D		
10 Panionios	21	8	1	12	22	28	-6	25	L	L	W	L	D		
11 Panthrakikos	21	7	4	10	22	25	-3	25	W	L	L	D	D		
12 AEK Athens	21	7	4	10	18	22	-4	25	W	W	D	D	W		
13 Plataniás	21	5	6	10	17	26	-9	21	W	L	L	L	D		
14 Veria	21	4	8	9	14	25	-11	20	D	W	L	L	D		
15 Aris	21	3	10	8	19	32	-13	19	L	D	D	D	L		
16 Kerkyra	21	2	8	11	9	27	-18	14	L	L	D	D	L		

TURKEY Süper Lig 															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first						
1 Galatasaray	21	11	7	3	40	24	+16	40	W	D	W	L	D		
2 Beşiktaş	21	9	8	4	46	32	+14	35	W	D	L	D	W		
3 Fenerbahçe	21	9	7	5	31	24	+7	34	W	L	W	D	L		
4 Antalyaspor	21	10	3	8	32	31	+1	33	L	W	L	L	L		
5 Eskişehirspor	21	8	8	5	36	24	+12	32	W	D	W	D	L		
6 Bursaspor	21	7	10	4	33	26	+7	31	W	D	L	W	D		
7 Kasımpaşa	21	8	6	7	30	23	+7	30	L	D	W	W	L		
8 Sivasspor	21	8	5	8	25	28	-3	29	W	L	W	L	D		
9 Karabükspor	21	8	4	9	28	35	-7	28	L	D	L	W	W		
10 Trabzonspor	21	7	6	8	25	24	+1	27	L	W	L	L	D		
11 Gençlerbirliği	21	6	9	6	32	33	-1	27	L	L	W	W	D		
12 Kayserispor	21	7	5	9	27	32	-5	26	D	W	W	L	L		
13 Orduspor	21	5	10	6	22	22	+0	25	D	W	L	D	D		
14 İstanbul BB	21	7	4	10	25	26	-1	25	L	L	W	D	W		
15 Gaziantepspor	21	6	6	9	20	31	-11	24	W	L	L	D	W		
16 Elazığspor	21	4	9	8	17	33	-16	21	L	D	W	D	L		
17 Mersin İdmanyurdu	21	4	8	9	22	29	-7	20	L	D	W	D	L		
18 Akhisar Beledi...	21	4	7	10	16	30	-14	19	W	L	L	D	W		

HOLLAND

Eredivisie



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first				
1 PSV	22	15	2	5	75	24	+51	47	D	W	W	L	W
2 Ajax	22	12	8	2	51	24	+27	44	D	W	L	W	D
3 Feyenoord	22	13	5	4	43	28	+15	44	W	W	D	L	W
4 Twente	22	12	7	3	38	19	+19	43	D	L	D	D	W
5 Vitesse	22	11	6	5	41	28	+13	39	D	L	W	L	L
6 Utrecht	22	11	6	5	33	25	+8	39	L	W	W	W	D
7 NEC	22	9	6	7	31	34	-3	33	W	W	L	L	L
8 ADO Den Haag	22	6	10	6	35	40	-5	28	W	L	D	D	W
9 Heracles	22	6	9	7	44	44	+0	27	W	D	L	W	D
10 Groningen	22	7	5	10	22	33	-11	26	W	W	L	L	L
11 AZ	22	6	6	10	32	38	-6	24	L	L	W	W	L
12 RKC Waalwijk	22	5	8	9	25	29	-4	23	L	L	L	D	D
13 Heerenveen	22	5	8	9	31	42	-11	23	D	W	D	L	W
14 NAC Breda	22	6	5	11	24	39	-15	23	L	W	W	L	L
15 Roda JC	22	4	9	9	30	43	-13	21	D	D	D	W	W
16 PEC Zwolle	22	4	8	10	22	35	-13	20	D	L	D	W	D
17 VVV	22	3	7	12	25	48	-23	16	D	L	L	L	L
18 Willem II	22	2	7	13	20	49	-29	13	L	L	L	L	L



The Fans Favourite Football Read

goal!
Weekly

Since 2005



Thank God It's Friday... **GW is available at all good newsagents every Friday**

Follow us on: [facebook](#) [twitter](#)

Publisher:
Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd
PO Box 142 Port Melb VIC 3207
Ph: 03 9551 7538

Distribution:
All Day Distribution
Tel: (03) 9482 1145

Advertising: 03 9551 7538
Email: news@goalweekly.com
Letters: mailbag@goalweekly.com
Web: www.goalweekly.com

Goal! Weekly endeavours to be as accurate as possible with everything it publishes.
The Fair Trading Act 1999 requires Goal! Weekly to disclaim any belief in the truth or falsity of information which is supplied to it and which is published in other than editorial content.

goal!
Weekly

If your business or organisation would like to advertise or sponsor a page in GW please contact (03) 9551 7538 for further details